THE NEW MUTANTS
DEAD SOULS

ROSENBERG
GORHAM
GARLAND

MARVEL

THE NEW
MUTANTS

BORN WITH AN X-GENE THAT GRANTS THEM WEIRD AND UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. THOSE WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRECEPTS OF MUTANT ACTIVIST CHARLES XAVIER USE THEIR ABILITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN AID, OFTEN FINDING THEMSELVES DRAWN INTO WEIRD AND UNCANNY PHENOMENA...

THE NEW MUTANTS
DEAD SOULS

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"NEW DAWN FADES"

HATCHI CORPORATION RELIEF CENTER.
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
SIXTY-FIVE, SIXTY-SIX, SIXTY-SEVEN...
48 HOURS AFTER HURRICANE ELENA MADE LANDFALL.
...SIXTY--
THUMP
UMM...
KICK
HELLO?
HEY! I THINK WE NEED A MEDIC DOWN HERE! WE'VE GOT A LIVE--
AHHH!

18 HOURS LATER...
JUST PUT THE CAT DOWN, GUIDO.
I DON'T WORK FOR YOU, JULIO.
IF THE BOSS SAYS I CAN'T KEEP IT, *THEN* I PUT IT DOWN.
RICTOR.
JULIO RICHTER. RESIDENT SNARKY JERK. MAKES EARTHQUAKES. GIVES ZERO %$&#S.
YOU CAN'T KEEP IT.
HA!
BUT HE'S SO LITTLE AND CUTE.
BOSS LADY SPOKE, BIG MAN. LOSE THE CAT.
OH, LET HIM KEEP HIS CAT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, RICTOR?
WE'RE HERE ON A MISSION, *TABITHA.* IT'S NOT AN ANIMAL RESCUE.
MAYBE IT IS. WHO KNOWS WHY *SHE* BROUGHT US HERE?
YEAH. WHY *ARE* WE IN... *WHEREVER WE ARE,* ILLYANA?

NOT FOR CATS.
SHE'S A *KITTEN.*
FINE. WE HAVE TWO VOTES TO KEEP IT. TWO VOTES TO LOSE IT. RAHNE?
AH DON'T REALLY LIKE CATS.
WOLFSBANE.
RAHNE SINCLAIR. MORAL COMPASS. SCOTTISH WEREWOLF. DOESN'T LIKE CATS.
FOR ALL WE KNOW HER OWNERS DIED IN THE STORM. SHE CAN'T SURVIVE OUT HERE ON HER OWN, ILLYANA. SHE'S JUST A KITTEN!
WHOA! I DON'T... UHH...
SHRAK
MAGIK.
ILLYANA RASPUTIN. TEAM LEADER / GOTH MUTANT TELEPORTER. WITCH. SOMETIMES DEMON QUEEN OF LIMBO.
SHRAK
NOT A KITTEN ANYMORE.
SHE CAN MAKE STUFF *OLD?!*
TIME WORKS DIFFERENTLY IN LIMBO...
...AND SHE CONTROLS THAT, I GUESS?
YEAH. WHATEVER. SINCE WHEN CAN SHE MAKE STUFF OLD?!

WAIT. ≑SNIFF≑ AH THINK AH FOUND SOMETHIN'.
PROBABLY ANOTHER CAT.
I'LL HELP YA, RAHNE. IT'S UNDER HERE?
STRONG GUY.
GUIDO CAROSELLA. TEAM STRONG GUY. HE'S STRONG...LOST HIS SOUL. GOT IT BACK.
I'M GUIDO CAROSELLA. I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU.
HELLO. WE'RE--
STAY AWAY FROM US, YOU MONSTERS!
RUN! DON'T LET THEM GET YOU!
GOD, I DID NOT MISS THIS.
NOT THE REACTION I WAS EXPECTING, TO BE HONEST.
MAYBE NEXT TIME WE SHOULDN'T PUT THE WEREWOLF AND THE OGRE AT THE FRONT OF THE WELCOME PARADE.

SO...YOU ALL SEE THAT GUY THAT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WAS EATING HIM, RIGHT?
THIS MIGHT BE WHY THEY WERE SPOOKED.
MIGHT BE.
DON'T DO THAT.
DO WHAT?
YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME.
HONEY, I'M NOT TRYING.
BOTH OF YOU STOP TALKING FOR A WHILE.
SHRAK
SHLUCK
MAGIK ALSO HAS A MAGICAL SWORD. SHE'S KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN.
OH...I BET *THAT'S* WHY WE'RE HERE.
THUMP

ARE WE GONNA TALK ABOOT WHAT THAT WAS BACK THERE?
I THINK IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS...
ILLYANA CUT SOME RANDOM DUDE'S HEAD OFF BECAUSE HE SNUCK UP ON HER.
HE WAS A *ZOMBIE,* LIKE ON *THE WALKING DEAD.*
AH'VE NOT SEEN THAT SHOW.
I MEANT THE COMIC.
THEY MADE THAT INTAE A *COMIC?*
HEY, BOSS? WHEN STRONG GUY WAS DIGGING THOSE PEOPLE OUT YOU SAID THAT WASN'T WHAT WE WERE HERE FOR. SINCE WHEN DO THE *X-MEN* NOT HELP PEOPLE?
WE'RE NOT X-MEN ANYMORE.
WELL--
KRSH
ALL RIGHT, MONSTERS, WE'RE TAKIN' OUR TOWN BACK!
DID WE JUST GET CALLED MONSTERS AGAIN? WHAT YEAR IS THIS?

AH'M NO' GONNA HURT YE. JUST GIMME THE BAT!
YOU GET THAT WE'RE THE *GOOD GUYS,* RIGHT?
STAY BACK.
BOOM
OKAY, COUNTRY FOLK. THAT'S ENOUGH FUN.
BOOM-BOOM.
TABITHA SMITH.
BACKUP SNARKY JERK.
BLOWS &$#& UP.
LOOKS GOOD DOING IT.
KEEP IN MIND THAT I HAVE VERY LITTLE PATIENCE FOR LIES RIGHT NOW. WHY DID YOU ATTACK US?
AFTER THE STORM, WE WERE MOVED TO ONE OF THOSE CORPORATE-RUN EMERGENCY CAMPSITES 'BOUT A MILE FROM HERE.
BUT YESTERDAY WE HAD TO RUN BECAUSE THEY TOOK OVER THE CAMP. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH THEM.
"THEM" WHO?
THE DEAD.
SHOW US.

THERE WERE A LOT OF US STAYING HERE, MAYBE 100. NOW IT'S JUST US.
AH'M SO SORRY. YER SURE NO ONE'S LEFT?
MAYBE ONE OR TWO GOT OUT. BUT THE ONLY PLACE ANYONE COULDA SURVIVED WAS THE TRAILERS.
AND THE GUYS FROM THE HATCHI CORPORATION LOCKED US OUT OF THOSE WHEN THINGS STARTED TO GO DOWN.
CHARMING.
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
MAYBE WE SHOULD PAY THEM A VISIT.
CH-BOOOM
C'MON, MAN! NEW SHIRT!
WHOA! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

9 TENSE MINUTES LATER...
I CAN'T REMEMBER SOME OF THE DETAILS. I JUST DRAW A BLANK. BUT NEXT THING I KNEW, THE...I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL THEM.
DEAD PEOPLE.
YEAH...THEY JUST ROSE UP AND BEGAN ATTACKING US. THEY KILLED MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMP AND THEN THEY WANDERED OFF.
AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO SURVIVE?
I WAS LUCKY. I GOT TO THE COORDINATION TRAILER AND HOLED UP IN THERE.
REAL LUCKY.
THIS GUY DIDN'T WANDER OFF.
YEAH, SOME OF THE REALLY MANGLED ONES DON'T MOVE. I DON'T KNOW.
REMIND ME NEVER TO LET GUIDO TOUCH ME EVER AGAIN.
SAME.
SHE'S NOT MANGLED.
YEAH. I...I DON'T KNOW THE RULES.
JUST TELLING YOU WHAT WE NOTICED.
I'M SORRY, OLD SOUL.

SO, LISTEN... IF YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE THE HATCHI CORPORATION SENT YOU TO RESCUE US--
WE'RE NOT.
BUT I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY THEY HIRED SUPER HEROES. TO MAKE SURE--
YOU HAVE A REAL PENCHANT FOR MISGUIDED THOUGHTS, DON'T YOU?
RUN! RUN!
OH, NO! THE DEAD ARE COMING BACK. YOU'VE GOT TO GET US OUT OF HERE.
SHRAK
I GUESS WE'RE UP.
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THAT CAMP BEHIND US. IF THESE THINGS MAKE IT PAST US, THEY ALL DIE.
JUST THIS ONCE...
I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T DOING THE BIG SUPER HERO THING ANYMORE?

LET'S DO THE BIG SUPER HERO THING.
@$%& YEAH.

HOLD YOUR GROUND, NEW MUTANTS!

FALL BACK TO INSIDE THE FENCE! RICTOR, BOOM-BOOM, BUY US SOME ROOM!
THEY'RE GETTIN' THROUGH! THEY'RE ALMOST INSIDE THE CAMP!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS.
YOU HAVE TO GET US OUT OF HERE! WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!
THE CREEP IS RIGHT, ILLYANA. WE CAN'T HOLD MUCH LONGER. 'PORT US OUT.
NO.
SHRAK
UMM... DID SHE JUST DITCH US?

WE JUST LOST OUR RIDE. NO BIG DEAL. LET'S ALAMO THIS @#&% FOR THE WIN!
YOU KNOW I'M MEXICAN, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW WE LOST THAT ONE, RIGHT?
SHE'S BACK.
SHRAK
OH, THANK GOD. SHE BRING BACKUP?
BZZZZZ
DO FLIES COUNT?
ᛞᚺᛗᚦᚦᛄ ᛗᛄᛊᚢᛉᛊᛗ
ACH. THIS DAY JUST KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER.
WAIT...

YOU. COME HERE.
PLEASE! JUST GET US OUT OF HERE!
SHE WANTS WHAT IS HERS.
I DON'T KNOW...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
JUST RETURN IT.
I... I DON'T KNOW WHY I TOOK IT.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THEY ALL JUST DIED? AGAIN?
WAS THAT US? DID WE WIN?
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO APOLOGIZE.
I DON'T REMEMBER TAKING--
I'M S-SORRY.
APOLOGIZE.
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
NO. YOU DON'T.
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, MA'AM.
THAT'S IT? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET...THAT *THING* WALK OUT OF HERE?!
SHE COST DOZENS OF PEOPLE THEIR LIVES!
NO. *YOU* DID. AND I'LL MAKE SURE OUR EMPLOYER HOLDS YOU ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT.
NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO BE A GRAVE ROBBER, MAKE SURE YOUR VICTIM ISN'T A *WITCH,* YOU DUMB--

HATCHI CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS. LATER...
HOLD ON, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU'RE SAYING HE'S JUST AN OLD MAN IN A BIRD COSTUME?
YEAH, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT.
THAT CAN'T BE--
ATTENTION! COMMANDER ON DECK.
THAT'S CUTE, JULIO. I SEE GETTING HIT IN THE HEAD BY A BOTTLE DIDN'T MAKE YOU TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY.
MAGIK TOLD?
SHE DID.
KARMA.
XI'AN "SHAN" COY MANH. TEAM FINANCIER. FORMER NEW MUTANT. CURRENT C.E.O. OF THE HATCHI CORPORATION. PSYCHIC POSSESSION. TELEPATHY.
I DID HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS, THOUGH, ILLYANA.
SUCCESSFUL MISSION. IT'S ALL IN MY REPORT, SHAN.
A SUCCESSFUL FIRST MISSION WHERE ONE OF YOU GOT HIT WITH A BOTTLE, ANOTHER GOT SHOT, YOU THREATENED ONE OF MY EMPLOYEES AND YOU LET AN UNDEAD WITCH GO OFF AND WANDER THE COUNTRYSIDE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
EXPLAIN WHY YOU LET THE WITCH GO.
WE PASSED HER HOME. IT WAS COVERED IN NORSE RUNES, HAITIAN VODOU AND WUNDAGORIAN FOLK MAGIC.
THEY WERE SYMBOLS OF PROTECTION. SHE TRIED TO SAVE HER TOWN. SHE FAILED.
AND YOU STATED IN YOUR REPORT, WITH *GREAT CERTAINTY,* THAT THIS WHOLE THING WAS SIMPLY AN ISOLATED INCIDENT?
WHY ARE WE IN TROUBLE FOR STOPPING A ZOMBIE--
THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE DOWN THERE, SHAN. I'M SORRY.
SHE WORE JEWELRY WITH THE SAME SYMBOLS. SHE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT HER SOUL, TOO, BUT YOUR EMPLOYEE BROKE THE SEAL WHEN HE STOLE ONE OF HER RINGS AND SHE ENDED UP IN LIMBO. SO I WENT TO GET HER.
RAISING THE DEAD WAS JUST AN OVERREACTION ON HER PART.
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT RETURNING THIS WITCH'S STOLEN RING WOULD BREAK HER CURSE?
JUST GOT LUCKY.

WELL, I'M NOT PAYING YOU SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO ACT LIKE XAVIER'S LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM. I EXPECT A MINIMUM OF PROFESSIONALISM AND A MODICUM OF RESPECT.
IF YOU WANTED PROFESSIONAL MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE PICKED A *DIFFERENT* TEAM.
I DID. CANNONBALL, SUNSPOT, MAGMA, SKIDS...BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD NOTHING ELSE GOING ON IN YOUR LIVES.
SO WHEN YOU'RE OUT THERE, REPRESENTING ME AND *MY* COMPANY, TRY AND DO YOUR JOBS LIKE YOU WERE TRAINED.
IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO ASK WHAT OUR JOBS ACTUALLY ARE? WHY IS ALL THIS SO SECRETIVE?
YOU INVESTIGATE PARANORMAL OCCURRENCES, RICTOR.
YEAH, BUT WHY US? STRANGE, VOODOO, THAT TWINK FROM THE YOUNG AVENGERS, THAT'S THEIR SCENE. SINCE WHEN DO YOU CARE?
EXCUSE ME, SHAN?
HI, EVERYONE. HI, RICTOR.
MY SEARCHES FOUND SOMETHING MATCHING OUR CRITERIA.
I'M NOT SURE IF THE TEAM IS READY TO--
WE'RE READY.
PRODIGY.
DAVID ALLEYNE. USED TO HAVE THE MUTANT ABILITY TO BE FREAKISHLY SMART. NO LONGER A MUTANT. STILL REALLY SMART.
ANOTHER MISSION ALREADY? IS THIS ONE ALSO GONNA BE DUMB BULL--
SHRAK
SHE KNOWS IT'S REAL RUDE WHEN SHE DOES THAT, RIGHT?
YES, PRODIGY. SHE KNOWS.
DAVID IS FINE.

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
HIT HIM!
HIT THE FREAK!
HIT THE MUTIE!
LEMME GO!
THWOK
OOF!
SCREW YOU! I'M NOT A MUTANT!
OH, YEAH? IF YOU'RE NOT A MUTANT YOU WON'T MIND PROVING IT TO US.
HOW WOULD I PROVE THAT, GENIUS?

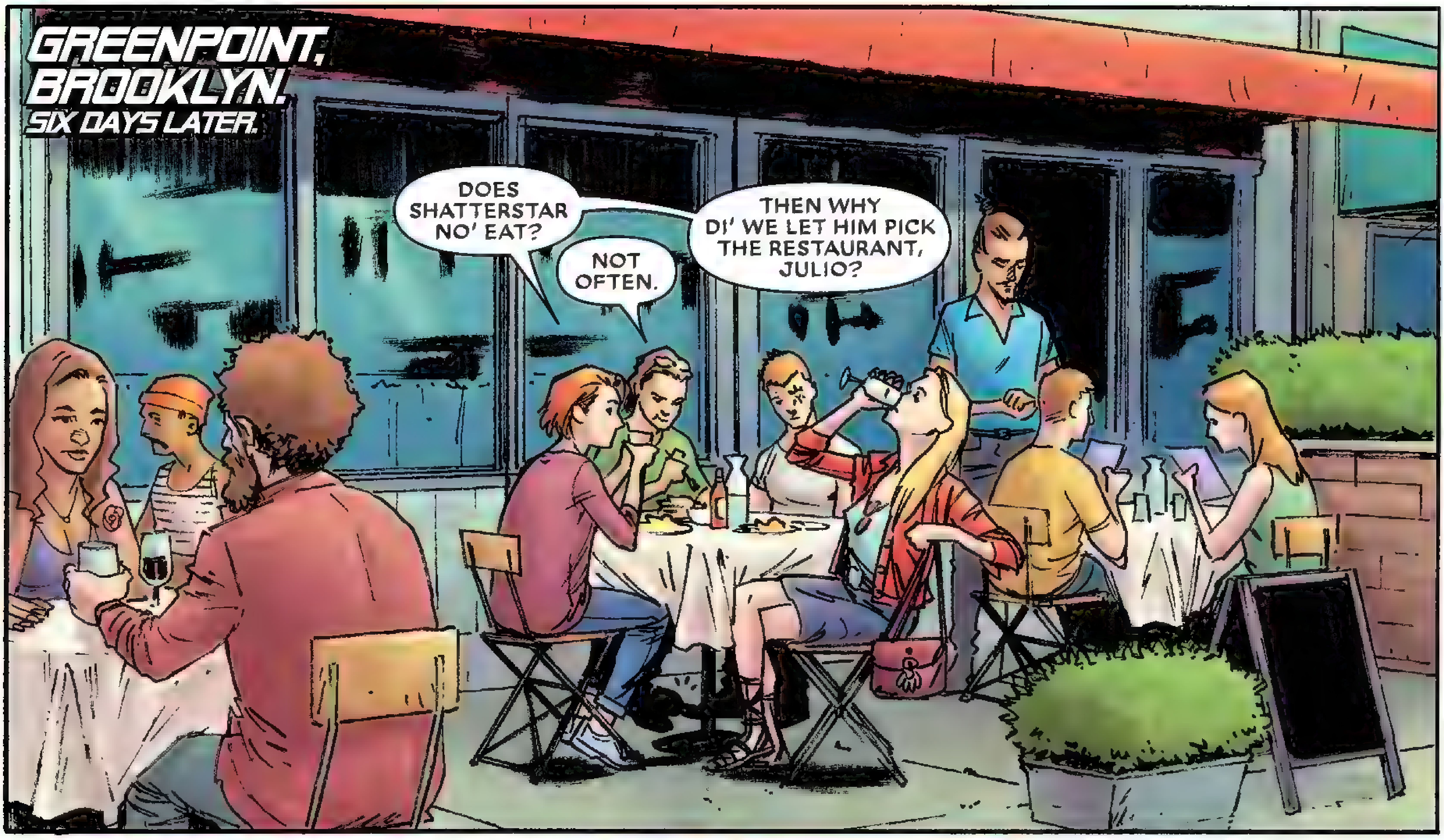
"IF YOU AREN'T A MUTANT YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM GOING INTO THE WOODS...
"...AND TELLING *THE ALONE MAN*, RIGHT? HE EATS MUTANTS ALIVE."
"I--I CAN DO THAT..."

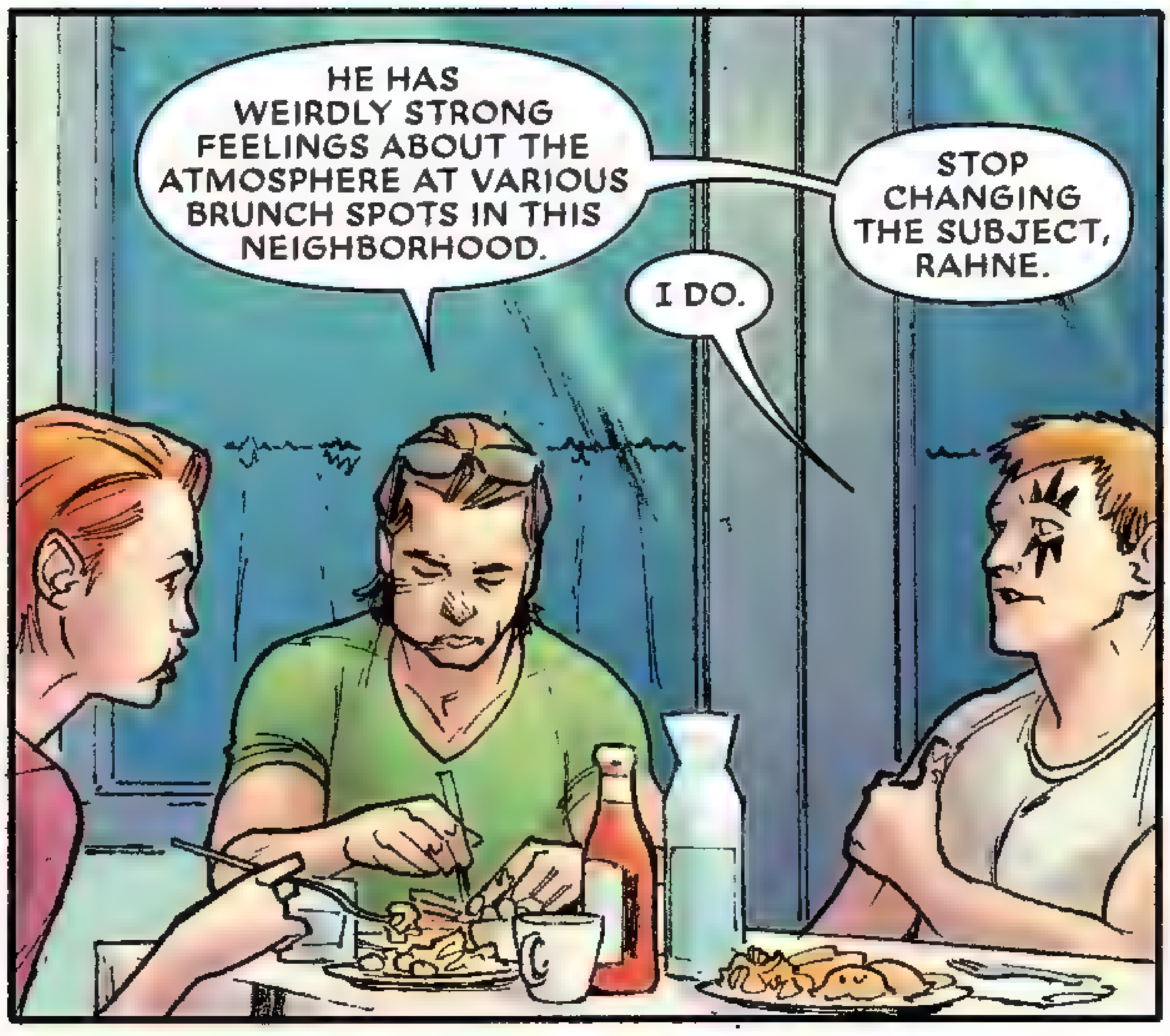
2

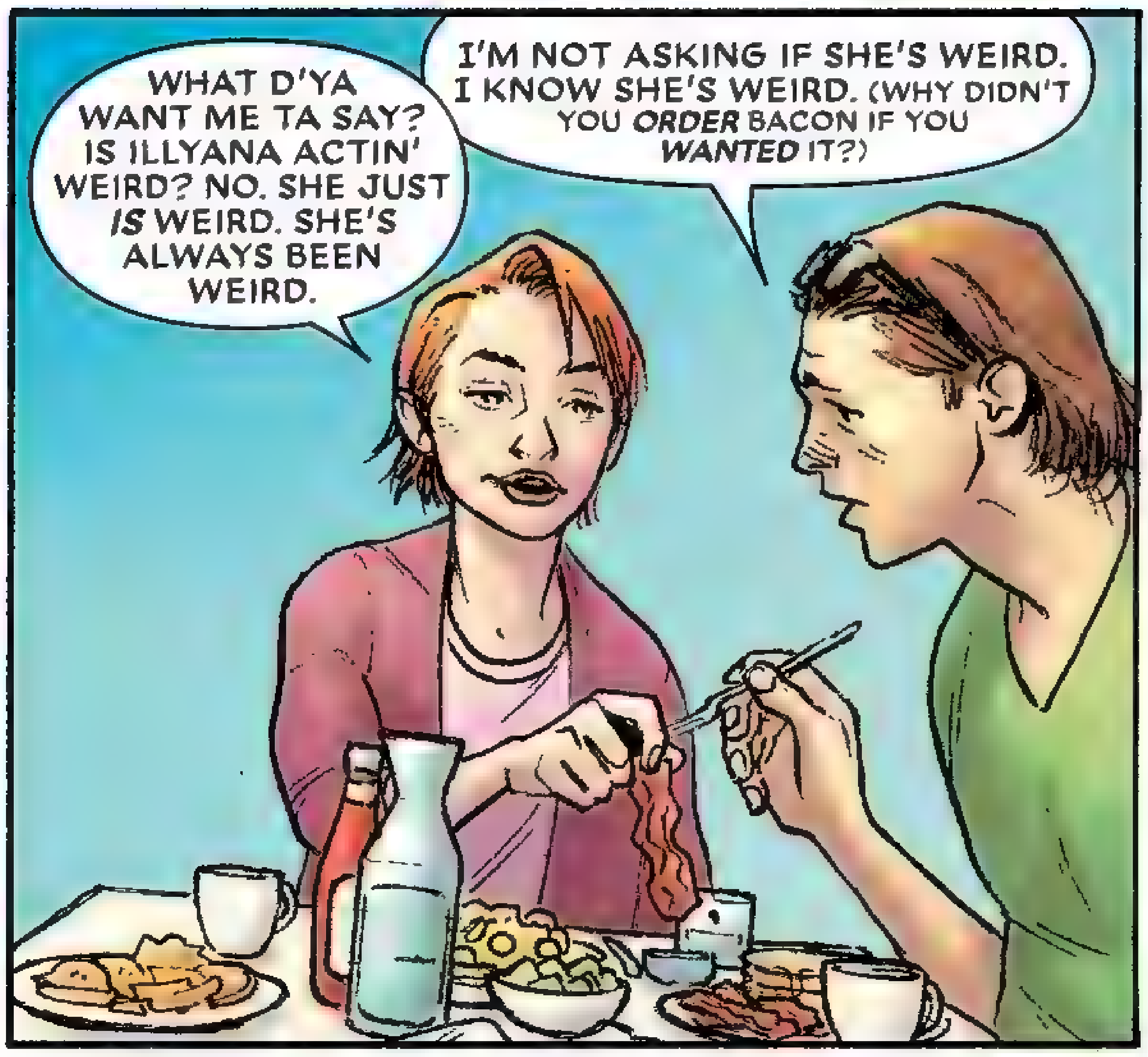
"ICE AGE"

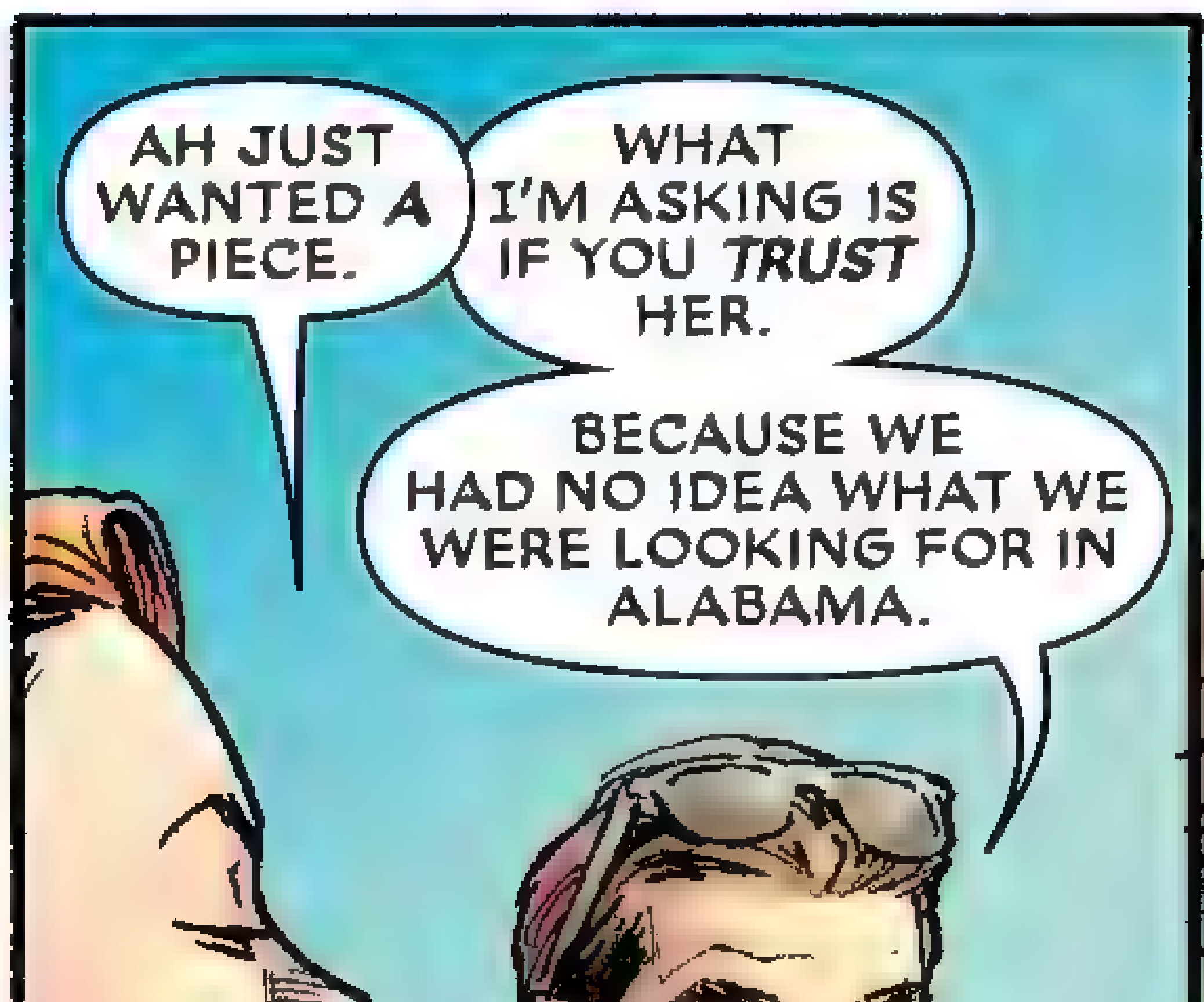
OCTOBER REVOLUTION ISLAND, RUSSIA.
VAVILOV STATION.
LISTED AS DECOMMISSIONED IN 1988.
‹NO SIGN OF ALEXEY?›*
‹NOTHING! AND WITH THE STORM COMING WE HAD TO GET BACK.›
*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.
‹IF ALEXEY'S STILL OUT THERE, HE'S ALREADY DEAD.›
‹SHOULD WE CALL FOR SUPPORT?›
‹CALL WHO?›
THOOM
‹WHAT IS THAT?!›

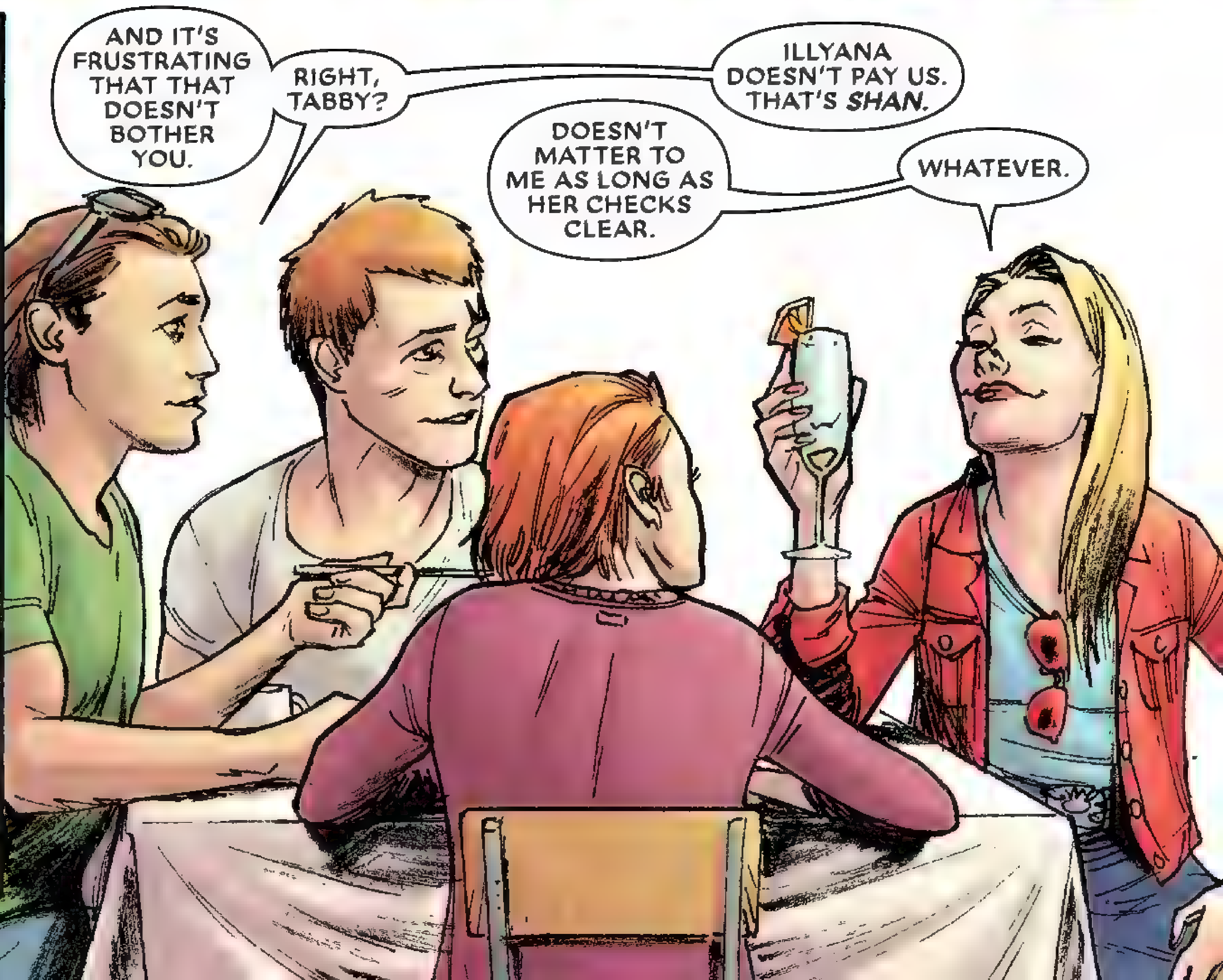
THOOM
‹GET INSIDE!›
THOOOM
‹WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!›
THOOOM
‹THE POWER...›
‹IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...WHAT WE FOUND...IT'S NOT...›
THOOOM
‹ALEXEY, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US?›


GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN.
SIX DAYS LATER.
DOES SHATTERSTAR NO' EAT?
NOT OFTEN.
THEN WHY DI' WE LET HIM PICK THE RESTAURANT, JULIO?


HE HAS WEIRDLY STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE AT VARIOUS BRUNCH SPOTS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
I DO.
STOP CHANGING THE SUBJECT, RAHNE.


WHAT D'YA WANT ME TA SAY? IS ILLYANA ACTIN' WEIRD? NO. SHE JUST *IS* WEIRD. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN WEIRD.
I'M NOT ASKING IF SHE'S WEIRD. I KNOW SHE'S WEIRD. (WHY DIDN'T YOU *ORDER* BACON IF YOU *WANTED* IT?)


AH JUST WANTED *A* PIECE.
WHAT I'M ASKING IS IF YOU *TRUST* HER.
BECAUSE WE HAD NO IDEA WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR IN ALABAMA.


AND IT'S FRUSTRATING THAT THAT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU.
RIGHT, TABBY?
ILLYANA DOESN'T PAY US. THAT'S *SHAN.*
DOESN'T MATTER TO ME AS LONG AS HER CHECKS CLEAR.
WHATEVER.

ARE YE DRUNK?
MAYBE.
MAYBE?
MAYBE MEANS YES.
IT'S BREAKFAST TIME!
IT'S *BRUNCH* TIME.
SHE'S RIGHT.
YOU DON'T FIND IT WEIRD THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHY SHAN HIRED US? OR WHY ILLYANA IS OUR LEADER? WHY NOT *DANI MOONSTAR?*
DID YE NOT INVITE ILLYANA TO BREAKFAST--
BRUNCH.
--SO WE COULD TALK ABOUT HER BEHIND HER BACK?
NO. I DIDN'T INVITE HER BECAUSE SHE GIVES ME THE CREEPS...
SHE JUST APPEARED RIGHT BEHIND ME, DIDN'T SHE?
IT'S TIME TO GO. WE HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT.
CAN WE FINISH OUR--

--MEAL?!
ILLYANA! I'M GONNA FREEZE MY &#&% OFF IN A SECOND!
SORRY.
OKAY. SO YOU BROUGHT US TO THE LITERAL WORST PLACE ON EARTH. WHY?
THANK YE.
THAT'S WHY.

WOT DID THIS?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT. THIS FACILITY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABANDONED BY THE RUSSIANS 30 YEARS AGO.
AND?
AND IT WASN'T.
HMM... REINFORCED DOOR. STRONG GUY?
I GOT THIS.
BOOM
THAT WAS BIGGER THAN I MEANT IT TO BE.
‹STAY BACK!›

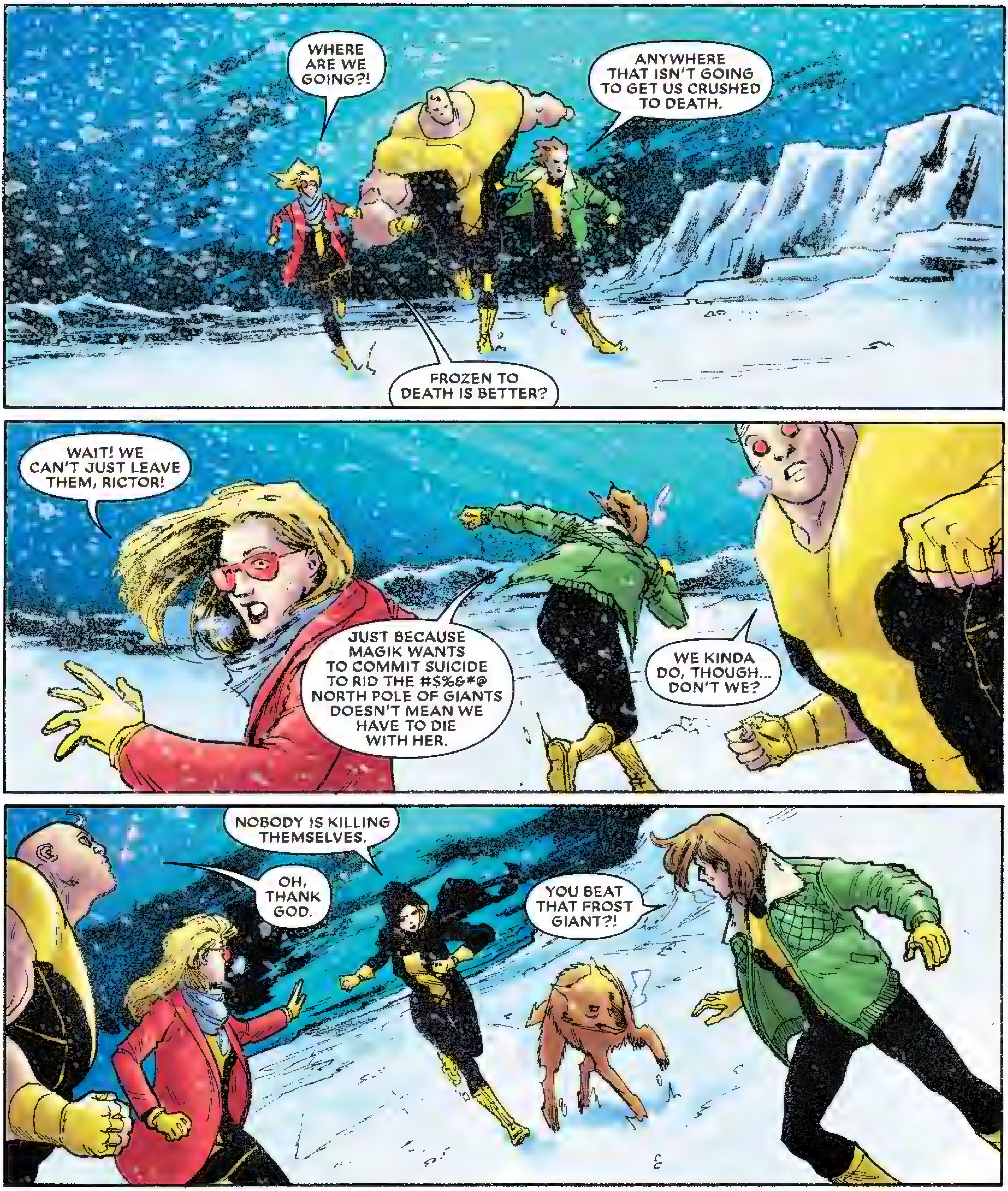
‹KEEP AWAY FROM ME!›
‹EASY, FRIEND. WE'RE NOT HERE TO HURT YOU. WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.›
‹A MONSTER.›
‹SO BIG. IT CAME FOR US. HE SENT IT AFTER US. ALEXEY. HE WAS CRAZED. WHEN WE FOUND IT IN THE ICE, WE STOPPED DIGGING. BUT SOMETHING CAME OVER HIM. HE WOULDN'T STOP.›
‹ALEXEY UNLEASHED THIS MONSTER ON PURPOSE. WHERE IS HE NOW?›
‹I DON'T KNOW. DEAD, PROBABLY.›
‹BUT YOU'RE NOT SURE? CAN YOU SHOW US WHERE YOU FOUND IT?›
‹NO! WE NEED TO LEAVE THIS PLACE! I WON'T GO BACK THERE!›
‹YES. YOU WILL.›
WOT'D HE SAY?
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT DID THIS BUT HE THINKS HIS FRIEND MIGHT STILL BE OUT THERE. HE'S GOING TO SHOW US WHERE.
‹NO! WE HAVE TO LEAVE! TELL THEM WE HAVE TO LEAVE! THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU HERE!›
YOU SURE HE WANTS TO DO THAT? DUDE SEEMS KINDA--

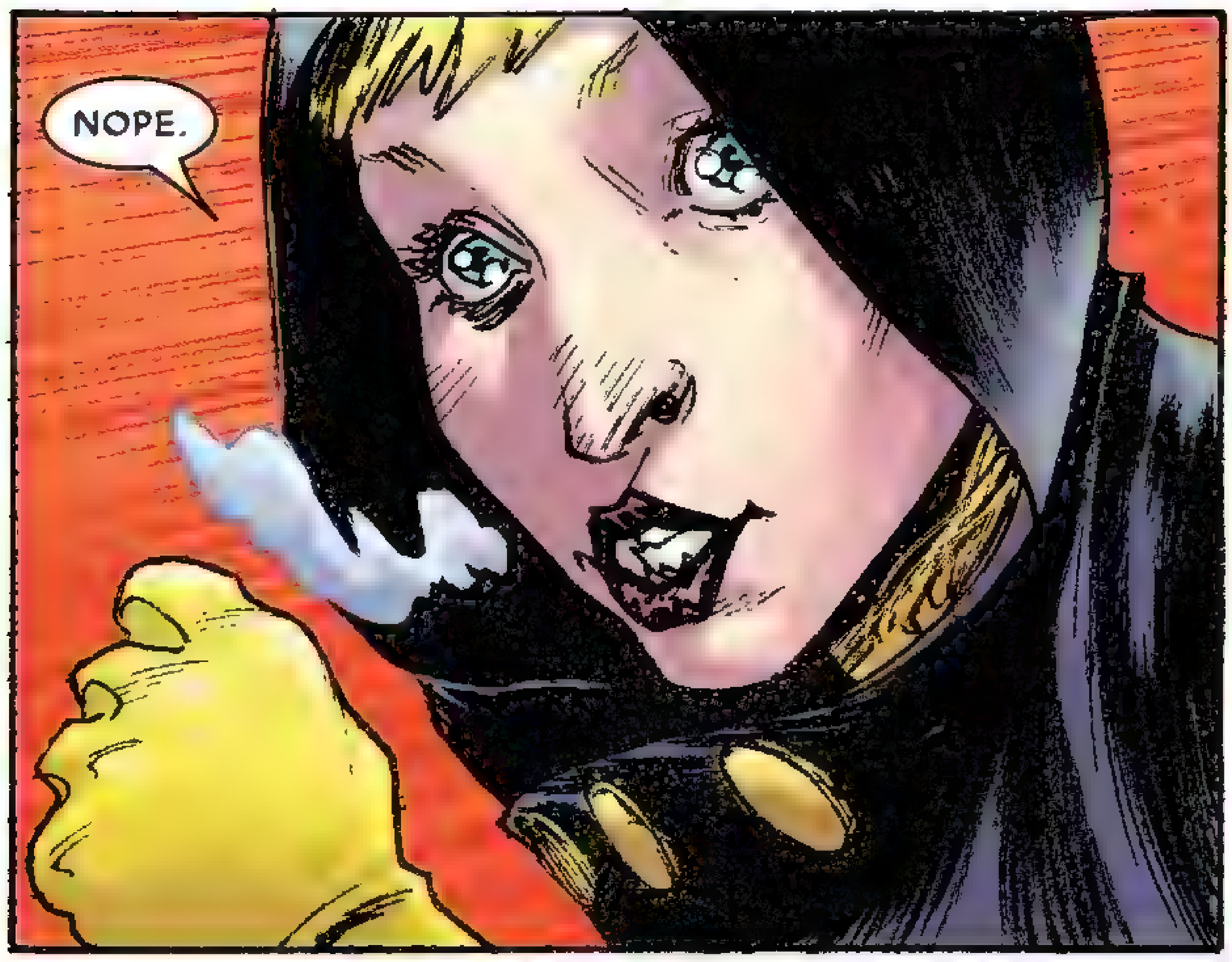
THOOM
GRRRR...
GUIDO!
GUESS WE FOUND WHAT DID THIS.

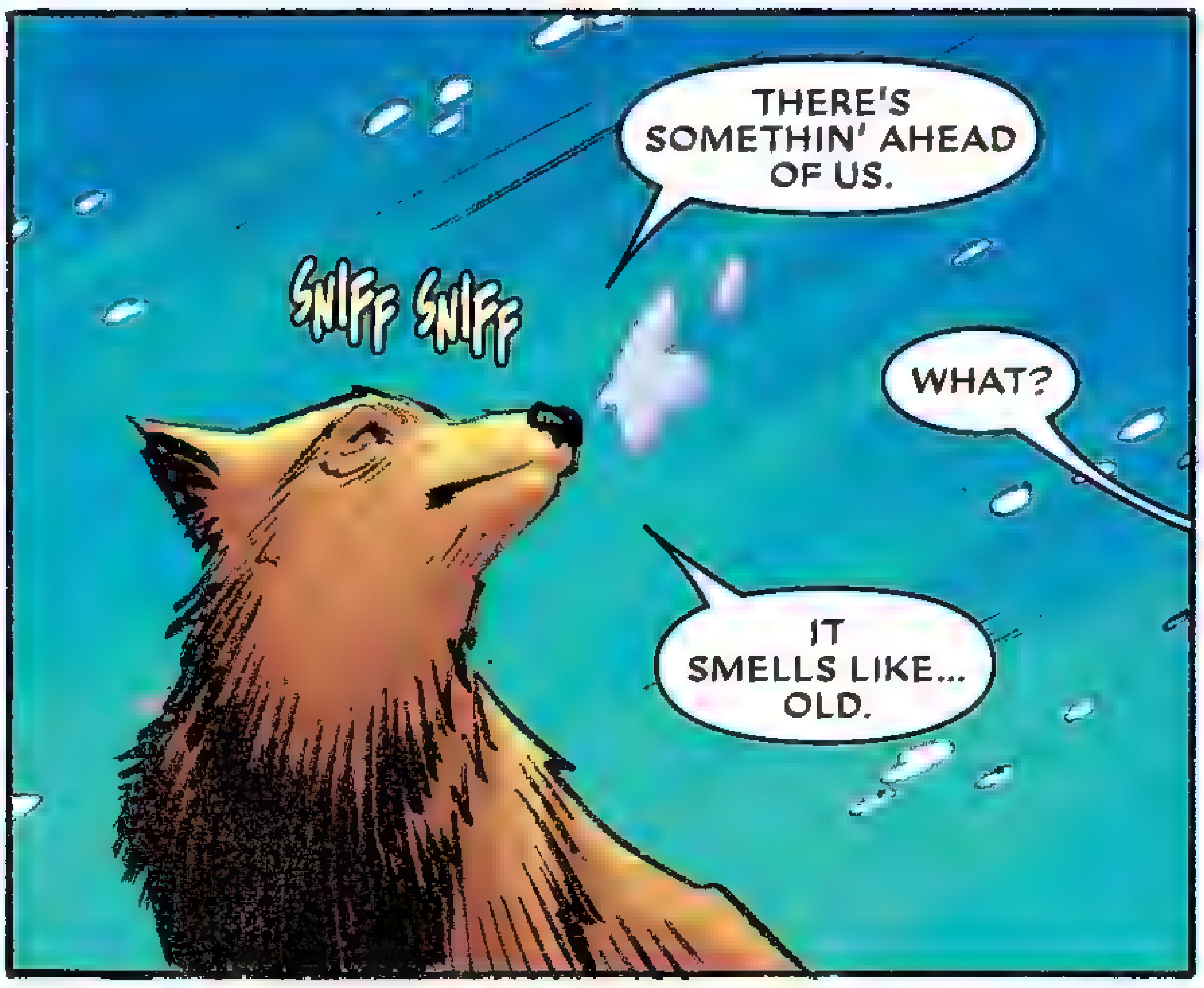
GRAH!
ANYBODY HAVE ANY GUESSES WHO THIS GUY IS?
HE'S A FROST GIANT! LET'S GET HIM OFF STRONG GUY! HIT HIM HARD!
I DON'T THINK HE EVEN NOTICES US!
RAH!
HE NOTICES! HE DOESN'T LIKE IT!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
A FROST GIANT STOMPED ON YOU AND THE RUSSIAN GUY.
OKAY. WELL, LET'S HELP HIM...
NEVER MIND.

STRONG GUY'S OKAY! THE RUSSIAN GUY IS... NOT.
LOOK OUT!
AHHHH!
KEEP HITTING HIM...WHILE HE... FOCUSES ON ME...

WE CAN'T HURT THIS GUY!
-GASP-
ILLYANA! HE'S OUT OF OUR LEAGUE. ZAP US OUT OF HERE.
WE'RE NOT DONE.
THAT WON'T HOLD HIM LONG.
THEN I WILL.
WE'RE NOT STAYING TO DIE FOR... GOD KNOWS WHAT.
IF YOU WON'T GET US OUT OF HERE, I WILL.
ILLYANA, PLEASE!
GO WITH THEM.
THERE'S NOWHERE TA GO HERE! WE'LL DIE WITHOUT YE! AH SAID AH'D FOLLOW YE IF YE LEAD THE TEAM, BUT YE NEED TA BE A LEADER NOW!


WHERE ARE WE GOING?!
ANYWHERE THAT ISN'T GOING TO GET US CRUSHED TO DEATH.
FROZEN TO DEATH IS BETTER?
WAIT! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM, RICTOR!
JUST BECAUSE MAGIK WANTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE TO RID THE #$%&*@ NORTH POLE OF GIANTS DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO DIE WITH HER.
WE KINDA DO, THOUGH... DON'T WE?
NOBODY IS KILLING THEMSELVES.
OH, THANK GOD.
YOU BEAT THAT FROST GIANT?!


NOPE.


THERE'S SOMETHIN' AHEAD OF US.
SNIFF SNIFF
WHAT?
IT SMELLS LIKE... OLD.

AH'M HAPPY TA BE OUT OF THE COLD, BUT WOT IS THIS PLACE?
IT'S A MINE. THESE MEN WERE EXCAVATING *SOMETHING...*
AND THEY DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
WHAT WERE THEY LOOKING FOR?
THIS.
MAY GOD REST HIS MORTAL SOUL.
HIS GODS AREN'T YOURS, RAHNE.
AN OLD NORSE BATTLE, LOST TO THE WORLD FOR MILLENNIA, FROZEN IN THIS ICE. THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE AFTER.
IT WAS A TIME OF MAGIC AND SORCERY. I'M SURE THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ITEMS OF IMMENSE POWER.
BUT WHY?
THEY FOUND ONE.
SNIFF SNIFF

GRRRR...
AH FOUND A LIVE ONE!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT THIS IS...
‹ARE YOU ALEXEY?›
‹Y-YES.›
‹CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID YOU DIG--›
HEY. YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, THOR?
YOU KNOW HOW TO STOP THAT THING YOU THAWED OUT?
I DO.
NO. I DON'T KNOW--
THOOOM
IT'S BACK! YOU BROUGHT IT BACK!

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET STOMPED ON AGAIN.
PLEASE! GET ME OUT OF HERE.
‹TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU. WHY DID YOU DIG IT OUT?›
"‹I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING UNTIL IT WAS OVER AND THEY WERE ALL DEAD. WHERE MY MEMORIES SHOULD BE...DARKNESS.›"
"‹WHAT IS THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER?›"
"‹NOTHING! IT WAS LIKE I LOST CONTROL OF MY MIND AND BODY. LIKE I WAS POSSESSED.›"
"‹THINK, OLD MAN. SOMETHING HAPPENED BEFORE THE DARKNESS.›"
"‹WAIT...I REMEMBER A PHONE CALL. THE MAN TOLD ME HE NEEDED TO DISCUSS MY RESEARCH. THAT'S THE LAST THING I RECALL.›"
"‹WHAT WAS HIS NAME?›"

OWW!
‹HE SAID--›
HATE TO INTERRUPT BUT WE'RE ALL ABOUT TO DIE. THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO HELP US NOW?
‹HE SAID HIS NAME WAS *TRAN.*›
BOOM-BOOM, COME WITH ME.
IT'S ABOUT TIME. HOLY--
WAIT! TAKE ALL OF US!

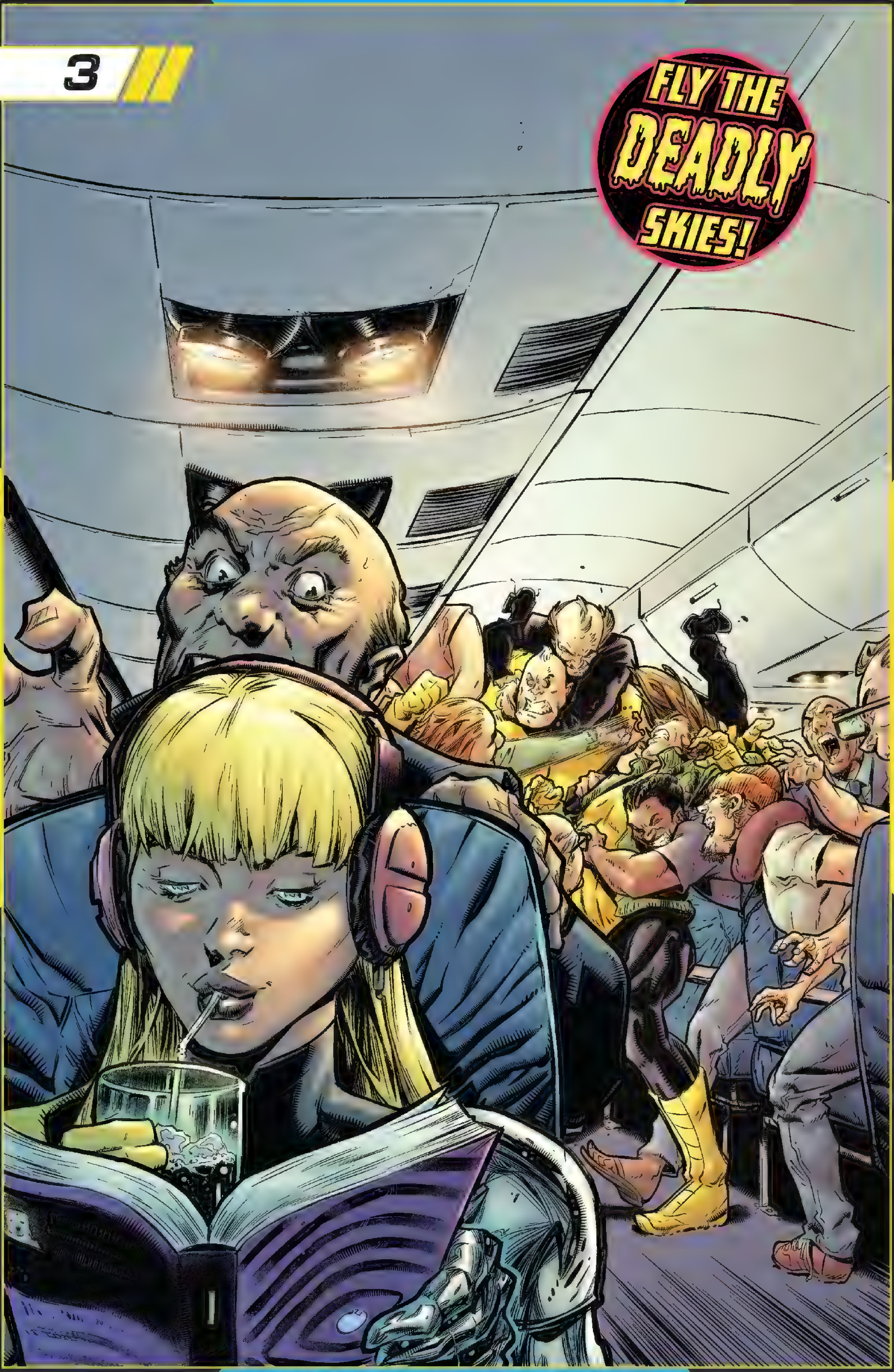
!
I THINK WE STUNNED IT!
AH DON'T THINK THAT WAS US.
OH. MY. GOD. WHAT THE HELL DID WE JUST DO, ILLYANA?
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU JUST TAKE ME? YOU CAN'T JUST GRAB ME AND SAY *"BLOW THIS UP,"* YA KNOW.
I'M YOUR TEAMMATE, NOT A BOMB DISPENSER, YOU CREEPY--
WAIT... PLEASE TELL ME WE WEREN'T...
...WAS THAT...
...WERE WE *INSIDE* HIM?

YES.
BAAAARF
OKAAAY. I'M SOBER NOW.
"ARE YOU SCARED, MUTIE?"

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
DO IT! COME ON, MUTIE!
I'M NOT A MUTIE!
DON'T TELL US, CHRISTIAN! RING HIS DOOR AND TELL *THE ALONE MAN.*
KNOCK KNOCK
OKAY. I GET IT. VERY FUNNY. THERE'S NO ONE--
CREEEAAAAK

HELLO, SELFSTRANGER! EXPLANATION OF YOUR TRESPASSING IS REQUESTED!
AHHHHH!

3


FLY THE DEADLY SKIES!

"FROM SAFETY TO WHERE...?"

37,000 FEET ABOVE NORTH CAROLINA.
HOW DO THESE SEATS KEEP GETTING SMALLER?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING...WE'VE REACHED OUR CRUISING ALTITUDE AND IT LOOKS LIKE CLEAR SKIES. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MOVE ABOUT THE CABIN IF YOU NEED TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS.
AND WHILE YOU'RE UP YOU MAY WANT TO SAY HELLO TO A SPECIAL GUEST WE HAVE ON BOARD.
WE HAVE AN ACTUAL SUPER HERO ON THE FLIGHT TODAY.
PLEASENOTME PLEASENOTME PLEASENOT--
PRODIGY, FROM THE WORLD-FAMOUS X-MEN, SITTING IN SEAT 24D.
YOU'RE A SUPER HERO? YOU'RE SO SKINNY.
MAKE SURE TO SAY HELLO SOON...
...BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL ABOUT TO DIE.

40 FEET BELOW NEW YORK CITY.
YEAH, BUT I'M SAYING THE *ENTERPRISE* COULD DESTROY THE *FALCON* ONE-ON-ONE.
NOBODY THINKS THAT.
I DO! MAGIK?
DON'T KNOW. DON'T CARE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! YOU'VE NEVER... WHERE THE HELL IS THAT MUSIC COMING FROM?
OH, SORRY. MY B.
TABBY'S PHONE. WHATCHA WANT?
OH MY GOD, TABBY. HANG UP!
WE'RE HAVIN' A *FIGHT*, BOOM-BOOM!
WELL, ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT A GREAT TIME. THE *MINDLESS ONES* ARE EATING...OKAY. OKAY. I'LL TELL HER.
IT'S PRODIGY.
HE'S ABOUT TO DIE.
PRODIGY

29,000 FEET ABOVE WEST VIRGINIA.
MAGIK?! WHAT THE @$#$?!
SHRAK

OHMY GODOHMYGOD OHMYGODOH MY--
HANG ON, HONEY! IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY!
--GOD OHMYGOD OHMYGOD OH--
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!
MAGIK, WHAT THE $%@# WAS THAT?
TELEPORTING ISN'T AN EXACT SCIENCE.
IT'S NO' SCIENCE AT ALL!
IF YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *IN* THE PLANE AND *ON* THE PLANE, THEN MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T GO *TO* THE PLANE.
I TOLD YOU WE NEEDED A FLIER! WE SHOULD HAVE *STORM!*
WHY WOULD STORM WAN' TAE JOIN OUR TEAM?
FINE. *SIRYN.*
WHY WOULD *SHE?*
HAVE NO FEAR, PASSENGERS. WE'RE HERE NOW.

GRRR!!!
UMM...
KILL THEM!!!
AHHH!
RARRR!!!
THIS WAS...NOT THE REACTION I WAS EXPECTING.
AND YET IT FEELS AS IF THINGS LIKE THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO US.
WAIT! THESE ARE CIVILIANS...
WHO ARE TRYING TO *KILL* US.
BUT AH THINK IT'S NO' THEIR FAULT!
WOLFSBANE IS RIGHT. DON'T HURT THEM.
OOOF!
THOK

I GOT THIS.
OKAY! NO MORE OF THAT. YOUR SEISMIC BLASTS ARE GONNA BREAK THE PLANE!
THE PLANE'S GOING DOWN ANYWAY.
AND WE'D LIKE TO *STOP* THAT.
I DON'T THINK ANY OF US HAVE DONE THE PREREQUISITE STUDY OF AERONAUTICS TO SAFELY SAY WHAT THE EFFECTS OF EARTHQUAKES ON PLANES ARE...
...BUT MY MONEY'S ON *"NOT GOOD."*

GUIDO'S RIGHT. NO POWERS IN HERE.
RICTOR, BOOM-BOOM, SEE IF YOU CAN GET INTO THE COCKPIT AND FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON. WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF.
THESE PEOPLE...WHATEVER HAS GOTTEN INTO THEM, THEY'VE BECOME MONSTERS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YE'D KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT.
AH THINK YE KNOW.
NO, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME?
YER RIGHT QUICK TAE MAKE SURE THAT NOBODY IS TAE BLAME FOR THE THINGS THEY DONE!
NO' SURPRISIN' FROM THE MAN WHO MURDERED MAH *FAMILY* AN--
ENOUGH!

SURPRISE, SURPRISE! THE LASS WITH NO SOUL DOES NAE CARE THAT AH'M FORCED TAE STAND BESIDE THE MAN WHO--
HELP!
ACK!
HEY! I FOUND PRODIGY.
THANK YOU SO--
DAVID, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THE PILOT...HE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!
WHY?
BECAUSE OF *US.* BECAUSE OF WHAT WE'RE *DOING...*

WE NEED TO GET INTO THAT COCKPIT!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN? WHAT ARE WE DOING?
FALL BACK NOW!
THIS FLIMSY PLASTIC DIVIDER SHOULD KEEP THE ANGRY MOB AT BAY.
RICTOR, WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE COCKPIT DOOR IS LOCKED AND THE PILOTS AREN'T RESPONDING. WE CAN'T GET IN.
LEMME TRY.
THUD
OW. NOPE.
I KNOW YOU SAID, IN YOUR INFINITE WISDOM, THAT I SHOULDN'T BLOW STUFF UP IN HERE, BUT I CAN GET THIS DOOR OPEN.
OR KILL US ALL.
OR THAT.

DO IT.
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REALLY GO FOR THIS. NOT MY BEST IDEA.
BOOM
AH, MOTHER--
IT DIDN'T WORK!
AT LEAST I TRIED!
WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY ABOUT YOUR USELESS--
IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE LIKE WHEN YOU'RE *SOBER?* 'CUS IT SUUUCKS.
WELL, WHAT ARE WE GONNAE DO NOW?
WHY AM I IN CHARGE NOW?! I JUST BLOW STUFF UP.
AND YE CAN BARELY DO THAT.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE WORST WHEN EVEN MISS GOODY TWO-SHOES IS CLOWNING YOU.
WE'RE ON A CRASHING PLANE AND YOU WANT TO CALL EACH OTHER NAMES?
WITCHCRAFT *AND* NORSE RUNES?
WHAT ARE YE WHISPERIN' ABOUT NOW?
THE PASSENGERS, THE PLANE GOING DOWN... OUR FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER. HE IS TRYING TO TEAR US APART.
WHO IS?!
THE DOOR IS SEALED WITH *MAGIC*, BUT I CAN GET IN.
BY MY CALCULATIONS, WE'RE GOING TO HIT THE GROUND IN...APPROXIMATELY *THREE MINUTES AND TEN SECONDS.* SO HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE?
HOPEFULLY LESS TIME THAN THAT.

WHY DON'T YE JUST TELEPORT THE WHOLE PLANE?
WHATEVER'S BEHIND THIS DOOR IS BLOCKING MY POWERS.
AND WHAT IF YE CAN'T GET IN?
THEN A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL DIE.
THAT'S YOUR PLAN?!
WE GOT THREE MINUTES!
TWO MINUTES AND FORTY SECONDS.
I KNEW YOU'D GET US ALL KILLED!
WE ALL KNEW WE'D DIE AT SOME POINT DOING THIS JOB, TABITHA, BUT YOU WON'T GET TO BLAME ME TODAY.
DON'T--
SHR--

--RAK
--GET CUTE WITH...
SHE'S SO $#%&%# ANNOYING.
WHERE'S RICTOR?

GLAD WE GOT RID OF *THEM.*
WHEN YOUR LITTLE GLOWY THING STARTED, I JUMPED OUT OF IT. NOBODY EVER DID THAT BEFORE?
HOW...?
NO.
WELL, I DIDN'T THINK YOU SHOULD GET TO BE THE ONLY HERO TODAY.
BESIDES, SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE SURE THESE MOUTH BREATHERS DON'T MAKE IT UP HERE TO FIRST CLASS.
BANG BANG
LET US IN!
WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU!
THAT'S NOT A GOOD REASON.
I NEED TO ACCESS MORE OF MY POWER TO BREAK THIS SEAL.
YOU AREN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS.
WHATEVER. JUST MAKE IT... QUICK.

NOW WE FINISH WHAT WE STARTED.
YEAH... I HATE THIS.

SO NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU IN PERSON. AND THE *REAL* YOU, AT THAT, *DARKCHILD.*
WHO AM I SPEAKING WITH?
OH, DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW.
YOU'VE BEEN CHASING ME ALL THROUGH THE SWAMPS AND THE SNOW. YOU WERE ALWAYS A LITTLE TOO SLOW, BUT NOW HERE WE ARE.
HELLO, *TRAN.*
HELLO, *ILLYANA.*
YOU KNOW YOU'RE DEAD, RIGHT? THAT'S WHY SHAN SENT ME AFTER YOU.
OF COURSE I KNOW THAT. MY SOUL HAS BEEN TRAPPED IN MY AWFUL SISTER'S BODY LIKE A...WELL, LIKE A HOSTAGE ON A PLANE, IF YOU'LL HUMOR ME.
BUT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD APPRECIATE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SOUL WHO ESCAPES IMPRISONMENT. YOU SAVED YOURSELF AS A CHILD. YOU EVEN RETURNED YOUR FRIEND GUIDO'S SOUL TO HIM, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
I CAN'T LET YOU JUST BE FREE. I'M HERE TO SEND YOU TO *LIMBO* UNTIL SHAN CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
LIMBO ISN'T MY FINAL STOP, THEN? INTERESTING. DO YOU WONDER WHY? OR WHY SHE SENT THE *OTHER ONE* AFTER ME?
WHAT OTHER ONE?
I KNOW WHAT SHE HAS PLANNED AND I AIM TO STOP IT. I'LL SAVE THE WORLD FROM HER.

YOU DON'T ACTUALLY THINK YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS, DO YOU?
LOOK AT YOURSELVES. A VAPID BOMB FOR HIRE. A NARCISSISTIC NATURAL DISASTER. AN OVERGROWN BABY KILLER. AN ACTUAL WEREWOLF. AND *YOU*...
IT WOULD ONLY TAKE A MIRROR TO SHOW YOU THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
EITHER WAY, YOU, YOUR TEAM AND MY MISERABLE SISTER WILL ALL BE KILLED. I WILL WATCH HER DIE WITH MY OWN EYES.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
NO!
...OH, NO.
W-WHY?
THIS WAS FUN, BUT I HAVE TO GO TO NEW YORK AND FIND A MAN WHO KNOWS *REAL* MAGIC NOW. ENJOY THE GROUND...

C'MON, ILLYANA. C'MON.
"STAY AWAY!"

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
QUERY: HOW CAN SELF-WARLOCK ASSIST SELFSTRANGER--
STAY BACK!
DON'T LET IT TOUCH YOU!
RUN!
OOF!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
EXCITED STATE, SELFSTRANGER IS GENETICALLY MUTATED, LIKE SELF! A COMMON BOND. SELFSTRANGER SEEKS CAMARADERIE!

WHAK
I SAID *LEAVE ME ALONE!*
QUERY: SELFSTRANGER IS SELFENEMY?
THAT WAS CRAZY!
IT CAME AT ME... I...
LET'S FINISH IT OFF!
KRAK
THOK
WHAM
STOMP
PLEASE, NO...

4

“ISOLATION”

SOMEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA.
RICTOR?! MAGIK?!
NO, NO, NO!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS, LIKE, THE AVENGERS OR SOMETHING?
SOMETHING.
HEY, MAN, IT'S TOO HOT TO GO IN THERE! *HEY!*
AIN'T NOTHING COULD SURVIVE IN THERE.
JUST LET HIM GO.

SNIFF SNIFF
IS SHE... OKAY?
OH, FOR @#$% SAKE... RAHNEY! COME BACK!
RAHNE? WHAT THE--
I COULDN'T SAVE THEM.
I COULDN'T SAVE RICTOR.

PLEASE HELP ME.
XAVIER INSTITUTE.
CENTRAL PARK, MANHATTAN.
I GOT YOU.
I NEVER GET TO SEE YOU ALL DRESSED UP. SO FANCY.
THIS IS PSYLOCKE'S DRESS, KITTY. I...*BORROWED* IT.
IT WOULD LOOK BETTER IF I WERE FIVE INCHES TALLER...AND A NINJA.
WELL, IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
PSHH. YOU GIRLS WITH YOUR SWORDS CAN PRETTY MUCH PULL OFF ANYTHING IF YOU COMMIT.
WHOA! EASY ON THE EYELINER, MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE.
BE NICE! NOBODY EVER TAUGHT ME HOW TO DO THIS!
GIVE IT. NOW LOOK UP.
I WON'T, IF YOU LOOK UP.
DON'T POKE ME.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, KITTY.

I HATE THAT FUNERALS ALWAYS BRING US BACK TOGETHER.
REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE JUST TWO LITTLE IDIOTS RUNNING AROUND THESE HALLS, TRYING NOT TO GET IN TROUBLE?
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ONE DAY THESE IDIOTS WOULD BE LEADING TEAMS?
I DID.
YOU WERE THE BRAVEST, TOUGHEST, *SCARIEST* PERSON HERE. EVEN LOGAN WAS INTIMIDATED.
FROM THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, I KNEW YOU'D BE A GREAT TEAM LEADER ONE DAY.
BUT I'M NOT.
I LOST A MEMBER OF MY TEAM, KITTY. I LET HIM DIE.
BUT YOU'RE STILL HERE FOR YOUR TEAM. WHEN OTHERS WOULD BE LONG GONE, YOU STAYED. YOU'RE HERE FOR THEM. THAT'S A LEADER.
I HATE ALL OF THIS. WHY ARE YOU SO MUCH BETTER AT THIS THAN ME?
I'M BETTER AT EVERYTHING THAN YOU.

HELLO. THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE. I KNOW IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO RIC.
HE ALWAYS SAID, NO MATTER WHAT, WE ARE A *FAMILY* FIRST. AND IT'S NICE TO SEE HE WAS CORRECT.
PSSST... ILLYANA. SAVED YOU A SEAT.
'YANA?
JUST LET HER BE, DANI.
WHERE I COME FROM THERE IS AN EXPRESSION--THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS YOU BETTER THAN YOUR FAMILY IS THE ONE WHO FIGHTS BY YOUR SIDE.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO ASK HIS FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, TEAM LEADER AND THE PERSON FIGHTING BESIDE HIM WHEN HE DIED IF SHE WOULD SAY SOMETHING.
ILLYANA?

THANK YOU, SHATTERSTAR.
SEEING ALL OF US GATHERED HERE...FOR RIC... JULIO...
IT'S OVERWHELMING. I...
...I THINK WHEN YOU AGREE TO LEAD A TEAM YOU HAVE ONE JOB ABOVE ALL ELSE.
JUST MAKE SURE EVERYONE MAKES IT HOME OKAY...
...
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE. ANY OF IT. I'M SO SORRY.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, LITTLE ONE.
YOU FOUND ME.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT A DRINK.
GOT ONE.
EVER RESOURCEFUL, SISTER. HOW ARE YOU?
NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THIS, PIOTR.
THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPORTANT.
"IT'S SO MUCH DARKER WHEN A LIGHT GOES OUT THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF IT HAD NEVER SHONE."
YOU'RE QUOTING STEINBECK AT ME?
I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU, SO I FOUND SOMEONE WHO DID. DO NOT BE ANGRY ABOUT THAT.

DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT REALLY.
WOULD YOU? I WANT TO HEAR THE STORY FROM YOU.
WE WERE ON A PLANE. I KILLED THE PILOT. I COULDN'T GET TO RICTOR IN TIME. I TELEPORTED MYSELF OUT. IT WENT DOWN. THAT'S THE END OF RICTOR'S STORY.
MINE KEEPS GOING FOR SOME REASON.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THE PLANE?
IT WAS A MISSION.
IT'S GOOD TO TALK, SISTER. EVEN WHEN IT HURTS. ESPECIALLY WHEN...
I JUST... I'M NOT THE STRONGEST X-MAN. OR THE FASTEST. OR SMARTEST.
THAT IS NOT HOW WE MEASURE OURSELVES.
OF COURSE IT IS.
WE CAN COLOR IT ANY WAY WE WANT, PUT IT IN A *FANCY DRESS,* BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY WE'RE SOLDIERS. RIGHT? I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE WHO KEPT THEIR HEAD WHEN %$#@ WENT WRONG.
BECAUSE ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN IS %$#@ GOING WRONG, PIOTR. SO I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE YOU TRUST IN A CRISIS.
YOU ARE.
TELL THAT TO RICTOR.

ILLYANA! WAIT--
GET OFFA ME!
HE WAS MAH SON, GUIDO! MAH SON! HOW COULD YE?!
RAHNE, PLEASE!
BREAK IT UP! BOTH OF YOU!
I'M SORRY, RAHNEY! I'M SO SORRY...
GET HIM OUT OF HERE.
I'M SORRY.

YOU! WHAT WAS THAT?
YE DAMN WELL KNOW! HE KILLED MAH BOY!
HE WASN'T HIMSELF. YOU KNOW THAT, RAHNE. HE HAD LOST HIS SOUL!
AND YE WENT AN' GOT IT BACK FER HIM, DIN'TCHA? AND THEN... AND THEN YE PUT HIM ON A TEAM WITH ME?!
DON'T YA EVEN CARE ABOUT THAT? ABOUT ANY OF US?!
C'MON, RAHNE. BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING YOU REGRET.
NO WONDER YOU LET RICTOR DIE!
OR NOT.
HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN, THEY SAY.
I'VE WORN CROWNS BEFORE. IT NEVER FELT LIKE THIS.

I'M SORRY, 'YANA. I KNOW NONE OF THIS IS EASY. YOU HANDLED *THAT* WELL, THOUGH. EVEN IF YOUR EARLIER SPEECH...LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.
YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW ME, DANI.
CAN YOU JUST ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION? I ASKED SHAN AND SHE GOT ALL WEIRD ON ME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
OF COURSE SHE DID.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT'S HER BROTHER.
LEONG?
NO. THE OTHER ONE. *TRAN.*
HE'S DEAD, ILLYANA.
AND WHEN DID THINGS LIKE THAT EVER MATTER TO PEOPLE LIKE US?
YOU KNOW SHAN KILLED HIM YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE HAD NO CHOICE. HE WAS EVIL.
I'M NOT SURE IT WORKS LIKE THAT, BUT GO ON...
AND YOU KNOW WHY SHE CHOSE THE CODENAME *KARMA?*
OF COURSE. THE DARKNESS AND THE LIGHT.
YES. THE YIN AND THE YANG. HIS SOUL HAS BEEN *TRAPPED* IN HER BODY.
I KNOW ALL THIS--
WELL, NOW HE ISN'T.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HIS SOUL ESCAPED? HOW?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
WELL, WHERE HAS HE BEEN?
SO FAR? THE HATCHI CORPORATION OFFICES IN HANOI. A HURRICANE RELIEF CENTER IN ALABAMA. A CEMETERY IN PARIS. AN ARCTIC RESEARCH FACILITY...
...AND THIS PLANE.
SO WHAT WAS YOUR PLAN?
I WAS GOING TO SEND HIM TO *LIMBO.*
THAT'S IT? YOU DIDN'T TRY TO TALK TO HIM? TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO HELP HIM GET HIS LIFE BACK OR WHATEVER HE WANTS?
RIGHT NOW IT SEEMS HE JUST WANTS TO HURT SHAN. HE ATTACKED HER COMPANY, HER TEAM, HER FRIENDS...EXCEPT YOU, ODDLY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE ONE OF SHAN'S CLOSEST FRIENDS. YOU'RE ALSO A VALKYRIE. WHO BETTER TO BE TRACKING THIS LOST SOUL THAN YOU?
AND?
WHERE WERE YOU, DANI?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ILLYANA?
WHY WEREN'T YOU WITH US? WHY WEREN'T *YOU* LEADING THE TEAM?
I'M SORRY, ILLYANA. I KNOW THAT YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO RIC AND--
I *AM* RESPONSIBLE. WHERE WERE YOU?
ALL THAT MATTERS IS I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU NOW. I WANTED TO KNOW--
WHAT OUR PLANS WERE. FUNNY THAT YOU CARE SO MUCH *NOW*, NO?
HEY, SUGAH, YOU'RE CAUSING A BIT OF A SCENE AGAIN...
A SCENE? NO...
...*THIS* IS A SCENE.
I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! IT'S DANI!
SHE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
OF COURSE SHE IS. SHE'S ONE OF US!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU WENT, DANI.
BUT I KNOW YOU AREN'T HERE FOR ME NOW.
YOU'RE VERY IMPRESSIVE, ILLYANA.

NO.
I SEE WHY MY SISTER PICKED YOU TO TRY AND CATCH ME. THANK YOU FOR THE INSIGHTS INTO YOUR PLAN.
I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I NEED YOU DEAD NOW.
GOOD NEWS! THE PASSENGERS ALL JUST SNAPPED OUT OF IT. DID YOU DO...
HOLY @&#$. MAGIK, DID YOU KILL THE $#%#&@ PILOT?!
RICTOR! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE NOT DEAD.
UMMM, YEAH...ME, TOO. BUT WHY ARE YOU TOUCHING ME?

WE'RE GONNA CRASH! FIX THIS!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FLY A PLANE!
SO YOU DO IT.
HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FLY A PLANE!
AHHHH... IT'S NOT... WORKING...
IF YOU GOT SOME...TRICK UP YOUR SLEEVE... NOW'D BE A REAL GOOD...
SHRAK

NINE DAYS LATER.
THIS IS OUR THIRD TIME THROUGH THIS GRID, SHAN.
I APPRECIATE YOUR PERSEVERANCE, BUT IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A WEEK. IT MIGHT BE TIME TO BE REALISTIC AND SAY--
MA'AM?
WE'RE GETTING A REPORT THAT THERE IS A DOWNED AIRCRAFT AROUND 35 MILES NORTH OF HERE, IN THE WATER.
DIVERS FOUND IT?
NO, MA'AM. THEY SAY IT *JUST* CRASHED DOWN A FEW MINUTES AGO.

HATCHI
IT'S THEM! HOW IS THIS--
"MAGIK'S POWERS DON'T ALWAYS WORK LINEARLY. SHE MUST HAVE TELEPORTED THEM THROUGH SPACE *AND* TIME."
I ASSUME THIS MEANS YOU WANT ME TO TELL THE *SECOND TEAM* TO STAND DOWN?
NO. KEEP THEM ON STANDBY. I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR DEAR MS. RASPUTIN.

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
WE MESSED HIM UP GOOD!
WHY DO THIS, SELFSTRANGER?
HA! HE LIKES YOU, CHRISTIAN.
YEAH, WELL, I DON'T LIKE HIM!
WHY DO YOU HARM/DAMAGE WARLOCK?
HEY! LEMME GO, FREAK!
WARLOCK/SELF DID NO TRANSGRESSIONS TO SELFSTRANGER.
LEMME GO...

PLEASE...
LET ME GO!
WARLOCK IS SORRY--
PSHHHGGNK

5

“ATROCITY EXHIBITION”

BING-BONG
THIS SUCKS.
177A BLEECKER STREET.
SHAN SAID WE'D HAVE THE WEEK OFF.
NOBODY MADE YOU COME, RICTOR.
ILLYANA DID! I WAS GOING TO THE WHITNEY AND THEN SHE "BAMFED" ME DOWN HERE TO THE WEST VILLAGE. AND NOT EVEN THE FUN PART.
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE, JUST GO.
LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE IS MY RIDE, REMEMBER?
THE A TRAIN IS, LIKE, TWO BLOCKS AWAY. STOP USING ILLYANA LIKE SHE'S A CAB.
GUESS HE'S EXPECTING US AFTER ALL.

HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?
RIC'S RIGHT, THOUGH. I THOUGHT WE WERE ON VACATION. WHY ARE WE MEETING WITH DOCTOR STRANGE?
ON THE PLANE, SOMETHING TRAN SAID TO ME...HE WAS COMING TO NEW YORK TO FIND SOME *"REAL MAGIC."* I THINK HE MEANT HERE.
THAT WAS BEFORE HE TRIED TO KILL US ALL? WHAT DID STRANGE SAY WHEN YOU ASKED HIM ABOUT IT?
...
YOU DIDN'T TALK TO HIM, DID YOU?
OH...HE DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE HERE, DOES HE?
OH NO... YOU JUST BROKE INTO A WIZARD'S HOUSE, DIDN'T YOU?
"WE." AND YES. BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHAT TRAN WAS LOOKING FOR.
WHY NOT JUST ASK STRANGE FOR HELP?
ILLYANA? ASK FOR HELP? *HA!*
WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND FOR ANYTHING UNUSUAL.
...UNUSUAL.
IT'S A BIG HOUSE. WE SHOULD SPREAD OUT...

"...AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING."
PSSST. BOOTLEG HOLDEN CAULFIELD.
UMM...ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
NO. I'M TALKING TO THE *OTHER* MILEY CYRUS COSPLAYER. YOU LOOK LIKE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GAP AND A WHOLE FOODS HAVE SEX.
YOU LOOK LIKE THE GUYS JUSTIN BIEBER PAYS TO HANG OUT WITH HIM SO HE LOOKS COOLER BY COMPARISON.
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW--
NICE SWEATER. DID YOUR BOYFRIEND BUY IT FOR YOU?
HE DID. AND I DON'T APPRECIATE THE SUBTEXT OF THAT.
YEAH, THAT WAS UNCOOL. LEAVE AGING HIPSTER HARRY POTTER ALONE TO KEEP SNEAKING THROUGH OUR HOUSE LOOKING FOR STUFF TO STEAL.
LISTEN, YOU @%#$& @&# OF $%@#& OF @%#&@# &#%$&. I DON'T NEED A $@#&$% TO &@%#@ MY $@&%! OKAY?!
...
...
ACK!

FOR SOMEONE SO SMALL, YOUR LEGS SURE DO MOVE FAST.
YE SHOULDNAE BE HERE. MAGIK SAID TO SPLIT UP.
I KNOW, BUT--
WHAT DO AH HAVETA DO TO GET YA TO LEAVE ME ALONE? I WORK WITH YE CUZ SHE SAID AH HAVETA, BUT AH DONNAE HAVETA LIKE IT. AND AH CERTAINLY DONNAE HAVETA ACT LIKE YER MAH FRIEND.
RAHNEY, I JUST--
AH, TAKE YER *"RAHNEY"* BULL AND SHOVE IT. YE KILLED MAH SON, GUIDO. ILLYANA AND THE OTHERS CAN GO ON 'BOUT HOW YA WEREN'T IN YER RIGHT HEAD AT THE TIME, BUT YA DID IT.
SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF AH WANT NOTHIN' TO DO WIT YA.
NOW AH SUGGEST YAH GO IN THAT DOOR. AND AH'LL GO IN THIS ONE. UNDERSTOOD?
OKAY.
SLAM

"COME WORK FOR ME, TABBY. IT'LL BE GREAT.
"YOU'LL GO TO COOL PLACES, HAVE FUN MISSIONS. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE LIKE UPTIGHT OLD X-FORCE OR THAT WEIRD NEXTWAVE STUFF."
CHIPS
SNIFF SNIFF
YOU'RE RIGHT, SHAN. THIS IS JUST *SUPER FUN.*
CHIPS
I'M GETTING REAL SICK OF HAVING TO WORK ALL THE TIME.

I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU IN.
OH! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE.
AND I DIDN'T THINK *YOU* WOULD. BUT IT'S MY HOME, SO MY SURPRISE MAY BE SLIGHTLY MORE WARRANTED.
NOW I HAVE TO ASK, WHY WOULD YOU COME INTO MY HOME IF YOU THOUGHT I *WASN'T* HERE?
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR STRANGE. WE ENCOUNTERED AN EVIL ENTITY AND HE IMPLIED HE WAS COMING TO FIND YOU--
AND THAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO BREAK INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, DARKCHILD?
DON'T CALL ME--
YOU MAY BE MY FORMER PROTÉGÉE, BUT YOU'RE ALSO THE DEMON SPAWN OF LIMBO. AND YOUR DEFENSE IS AN *"EVIL ENTITY"* TOLD YOU IT WAS COMING HERE? DID IT NEVER DAWN ON YOU THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIED TO?
NO, I--
I CAN'T TELL IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU ARE CORRECT OR IF YOUR JUDGMENT WAS CLOUDED, BUT YOU'VE MADE A GRAVE MISTAKE, DARKCHILD.

STRANGE BETTER HAVE CABLE. I'M NOT TRYING TO MISS MY *ATLANTA.*
WHERE'S THE CLICKER? WEIRDO BETTER NOT HAVE SOME DUMB *MAGIC-POWERED* TV.
"BY *THE TIRED TEARS OF TIME WARNER...*"
rcerer's Own
YSTIC
ALE
YUMMUS!
The yummy hummus
OH, HERE IT IS.
PREVIOUSLY ON AGENT CARTER--
WHAA? THEY'RE MAKING NEW EPISODES OF--
OH, HEY THERE, LITTLE BUDDY. HUMMUS?
CHIP

DOUG, STOP IT!
COME ON, GET UP, STOP TEASIN' US...
GUESS I WON.
READY TO PLAY *YOUR* PART, MY ONCE AND FORMER WEREWOLF?
AS MY *MASTER* COMMANDS.
AH HAVETA GIT OUT OF HERE!
WE DO GOD'S WORK THIS NIGHT, LADY.
NO!
THERE IS NO SIN SO TERRIBLE GOD'S LOVE CANNOT FORGIVE...
RAHNE!

RAHNE!
AH TOLD YA NO' TO FOLLOW ME!
SAME. AH'M GLAD THAT'S...
I DIDN'T. I HAD TO WALK THROUGH SOME ROOM FULL OF MY NIGHTMARES AND IT PUT ME OUT HERE.
...OVER...
OH NO. PLEASE...

AH... AH DIDN'T KNOW...
WE'RE STILL IN MAH NIGHTMARES.
AND YOURS.
LOSING MY SOUL...IT WAS LIKE I WAS TRAPPED IN MY OWN BODY. I COULD SEE IT, BUT I COULDN'T STOP IT.
I KNOW YOU BELIEVE IN SOULS, RAHNEY. THEIR IMPORTANCE.
I NEVER BELIEVED IN THAT STUFF. HEAVEN AND HELL. OUR SOULS. I WASN'T RAISED THAT WAY. I DIDN'T BELIEVE...
BUT I DO NOW. I WISH I COULD SAY THIS WASN'T MY FAULT...
...BUT I SEE IT EVERY DAY. THIS IS MY HELL. EVERY SINGLE DAY I KNOW WHAT I DID. WHAT I AM.
I DID IT. I KILLED HIM, RAHNEY. I'M SO, SO SORRY. I'M A MONSTER.
I'M SO SORRY. I'M SO SORRY. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
SHHH. AH KNOW, GUIDO. IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY.

YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT ME.
TELL ME, CAN YOU HEAR THE VOICE OF THE DARKCHILD WHEN YOU ARE IN THIS FORM?
THAT'S NOT--
DO YOU HAVE DARK URGES THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO FIGHT?
NOTHING BEYOND MY CONTROL.
SO YOU ADMIT YOU HAVE IMPULSES? THE HUMAN FORM IS NOT MEANT TO CONTAIN THE POWERS OF LIMBO. YOU KNOW THIS. WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS.
CAN YOU SAY FOR SURE THAT ILLYANA RASPUTIN IS STILL IN CONTROL?
YES...I... THIS ISN'T WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.
ARE YOU SURE?
THERE IS A SIMPLE WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS. DRAW YOUR SOULSWORD.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
I CAN PROTECT MYSELF, SO I AM NOT AFRAID OF WHAT YOU MIGHT DO WITH IT. ARE YOU?
GOOD.

NOW LET THE DARKCHILD COME OUT.
NO.
I'M NOT SPEAKING TO ILLYANA ANYMORE. BRING FORTH YOUR TRUE SELF. WE WILL SPEAK AS EQUALS.
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED? IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE HOPING FOR, SORCERER?
THAT WAS JUST THE FIRST STEP...
NOW I WANT YOU TO STAB YOURSELF.
YOUR SOULSWORD WILL ONLY HURT THE MAGICAL ASPECTS OF YOUR BEING. IF ILLYANA IS TRULY IN CONTROL THEN *SHE* CAN CUT THE DEMON OUT AND RESCUE THE POOR MUTANT CHILD.
NICE TRY.
ILLYANA! NO!

OOOF!
I WON'T LET YOU DO IT!
GET OFF ME!
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, ILLYANA! TRUST ME!
YES, I DO.
SHE IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL OF HER ACTIONS. THE DEMON IS ALL THAT IS LEFT.
IT'S A TRICK! HE'S LYING!
I'M AFRAID I AM NOT. YOUR DEAR FRIEND MAY BE GONE FOR GOOD IF WE DON'T ACT QUICKLY. RAHNE, TAKE HER SWORD AND--
NO. SOMETHIN'S WRONG. GUIDO, LET 'ER GO.
BUT LOOK AT HER, RAHNEY. SHE'S A MONSTER.
WE ALL ARE.

YOU'VE JUST MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.
WOULDN'T BE MY FIRST.
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE THE WORST THE X-MEN HAVE TO OFFER.
I'LL SHOW *YOU* THE WORST!
YOU ALL REALLY ARE TERRIBLE AT THIS. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? NO WONDER MY SISTER PICKED YOU.
SHE PICKED US 'CUZ SHE KNEW WE'D KICK YER ARSE!
NOT SO INCOMPETENT THAT WE DIDN'T MAKE IT HERE TO STOP *YOU.*
OH, MY DEAR GIRL. I FEEL LIKE I KNOW YOU SO WELL AFTER WATCHING YOU GROW UP ALL THESE YEARS, TRAPPED BEHIND MY SISTER'S EYES.
YET YOU NEVER CEASE TO ASTOUND ME IN THE LENGTHS YOU WILL GO TO APPEAR IN CONTROL WHEN YOU ARE THE FURTHEST THING FROM IT.
NO, NO, NO. YOU ARE HER B-TEAM. YOU'RE THE %$#@-UPS. SHE KNEW YOU'D SPEND TOO MUCH TIME DISTRUSTING EACH OTHER AND INFIGHTING TO EVER FIGURE OUT YOU WERE BEING USED.
THE RIGHT MIX OF *"BLIND LOYALTY,"* LACK OF TRUST AND TOTAL INCOMPETENCE MAKE YOU THE PERFECT PATSIES.
YOU DIDN'T CATCH ME HERE. I LEFT YOU CLUES. I COULDN'T GET PAST STRANGE'S MAGICAL SEAL. ONLY YOUR SOULSWORD COULD, DARLING. YOU OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME.

I BET THE REST OF YOUR LITTLE TEAM DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME, DID THEY? SECRETS ARE NO FUN, ILLYANA.
SHUT UP!
WELL, AT LEAST YOU CAN ALL BE HAPPY KNOWING YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING OUT ***HER*** AGENDA FOR MONTHS WITHOUT ANY OF YOU KNOWING IT. AND NOW YOU CAN TAKE COMFORT KNOWING THAT YOU FAILED AND SHE WILL LOSE.
I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF.
OH, IF YOU COULD I KNOW YOU WOULD, ILLYANA. BUT I'VE HAD YEARS TO FOCUS AND BECOME SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HARM ME WHEN I'M IN THIS FORM.
I KNOW YOU CAN'T STAY LIKE THAT FOREVER.
LUCKY FOR ME, I CAN KILL YOU NOW SO I DON'T HAVE TO.
LUCKY FOR US, WE HAVE A ME!
AND MY LEGLESS AMPHIBIAN FRIENDS HERE TOLD ME THAT BEING NEAR THIS GAUDY LITTLE PIECE OF FLARE WILL TURN YOU BACK TO YOUR PHYSICAL FORM.
WE'RE REPTILES, MORON.
SILLY BOY, THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFTER THIS WHOLE TIME.
OOOPS.
YEAH, OOOPS.
I BANISH YOU TO LIMBO!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN JUST BANISH ME WITH ONE OF YOUR LITTLE *STEPPING DISCS?!*
HAVING A PHYSICAL BODY HAS ONLY MADE ME MORE POWERFUL.
SHRAK
BUT IT ALSO MEANS WE CAN HIT YOU!
'YANA, WHEN I GO IN...YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO...
GET OFF! WAIT!
NO!
YE HAVE TA OPEN IT BACK UP. GUIDO'S IN THERE.
I CAN'T. I CAN'T RISK TRAN GETTING BACK OUT. HE'S TOO POWERFUL.
YE CAN'T LEAVE HIM THERE. IT'S HELL. YE CAN'T LEAVE HIM.
I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAVE A TALK WITH SHAN.

TABBY, WE'RE LEAVING.
UGGH. FINE. YOU GUYS FIND DOCTOR STRANGE?
NO.
WE STILL GETTING PAID?
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE @#&$. WHERE'S GUIDO?
TRAPPED IN HELL.
GEEZ. I MISS EVERYTHING.
HEY, ILLYANA, YOU TOLD ME THIS PLACE WOULD BE ALL COOL AND FREAKY. IT WAS PRETTY BORING. ALL I DID WAS WATCH TV. AND PLAY WITH A COOL DOG.
THAT DOG IS DEAD.

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
CHRISTIAN?
SLAM
HONEY? ARE YOU OKAY?
CHRISTIAN McKNIGHT, YOU OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW!
BANG BANG BANG
MOM, I DID SOMETHING BAD TONIGHT.
IT'S OKAY, HONEY. JUST OPEN THE DOOR. IT'LL BE--
AND NOW SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO ME... SELF DOESN'T FEEL WELL...

SWEETHEART... WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?

6

"SOMETHING MUST BREAK"

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
ICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE
I'VE BEEN OVER THE WHOLE THING. THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM.
THREE MONTHS AGO.
NO, YOU WERE RIGHT TO SEND ME. I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED HERE.
I JUST DON'T SENSE YOUR BROTHER'S INVOLVEMENT.
...
NOBODY BUT YOU CALLS IT *"VALKYRIE SENSE,"* BUT YES, SHAN. IF TRAN'S SOUL WAS HERE I WOULD HAVE *SENSED* HIM.
YEAH, I'M DONE HERE. I'LL HEAD BACK IN A BIT AND WE CAN GRAB DINNER AND FIGURE OUT WHERE TO GO NEXT.
DANIELLE MOONSTAR.

WHAT IS THIS?
SNIFF
HAAACHK! HUACH!
÷GASP÷ PLEASE HELP... ÷GASP÷
SELF... FRIEND...
XI'AN COY MANH
calling...
DANI...? HELLO?

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT. NOW.
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN THERE, YA KNOW.
YES, I AM.
MY MOM SAYS THEY ALL DIED BECAUSE THE KID WHO LIVED THERE WAS A MUTIE FREAK.
TELL YOUR MOM TO GO @$%# HERSELF.

THE HATCHI CORPORATION.
HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ILLYANA LOOKED AT. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS SHE ACCESSED A LOT OF SECURE FILES LAST NIGHT.
HOW WAS SHE ABLE TO DO THAT?
I GAVE HER ACCESS.
WHAT?
YOU MADE HER TEAM LEADER. *I* JUST ASSUMED SHE WAS ALLOWED TO LOOK AT IT. IS THERE A REASON SHE *ISN'T?*
"DAMMIT. I HAVE TO FIND HER."
WHERE IS ILLYANA?
AH HAVENAE SEEN HER IN A COUPLE AH DAYS. WHY?
GO AWAY! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU I DON'T WORK EARLY MORNINGS!
IT'S NOON, TABBY. WHY DID YOU GO ON A MISSION THAT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT? AND WHY DID ILLYANA NEVER FILE A FIELD REPORT ABOUT THAT MISSION?
WHAT THE $#&@ IS A FIELD REPORT?!
WHERE IS GUIDO?
VACATION?
NO.
I KNOW YOU ALL ARE COVERING FOR ILLYANA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT WHEN I FIND OUT...
AND TELL SHATTERSTAR TO PUT SOME DAMN CLOTHES ON.

HA! FOUND YOU!
I WASN'T HIDING FROM YOU, SHAN. I WAS JUST OUT.
ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE IT REALLY FEELS LIKE YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, ILLYANA.
DID YOU TAKE THE TEAM ON AN UNSANCTIONED MISSION?
I ASSUMED YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THAT YOUR EMPLOYEES BROKE INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM AND STOLE THINGS FROM *DOCTOR STRANGE.*
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
BECAUSE I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE NOT BEING FORTHCOMING, SHAN.
WHAT HAS THE HATCHI CORPORATION BEEN WORKING ON? WHAT WAS THE MISSION IN THE ARCTIC? WHY WERE YOU SO INTERESTED IN HURRICANE CLEANUP?
THIS COMPANY HAS MANY DIFFERENT FACETS. YOU KNOW THIS. WHY ARE WE EVEN DISCUSSING--
YOU WERE WEAPONIZING MAGIC, SHAN. YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. HATCHI CORPORATION NEEDS TO KEEP UP WITH COMPANIES LIKE RAND, STARK, RICHMOND, ROXXON, TRASK--
TRASK?! ARE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
TO SECURE OUR FUTURE IT'S TIME FOR A MUTANT-RUN BUSINESS TO--
IS THIS FOR MUTANTS OR FOR YOU?
DON'T BE SO NAIVE, ILLYANA. WE'RE ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF *OUR* SPECIES, *OUR* FRIENDS. I'M MAKING SURE THAT MUTANTS HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE. AND OUR CONTRACTORS--
YOU MEAN *O.N.E.?*
DID YOU FORGET? THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY PUT SENTINELS ON OUR DOORSTEP AND YOU WANT TO WORK WITH THEM?
WE DON'T WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY!
YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW, DID YOU? OH, SHAN. I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THIS. YOU'VE HAD YOUR BROTHER'S VOICE IN YOUR HEAD FOR MOST OF YOUR LIFE NOW, WHISPERING TO YOU.
BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY I THINK HE STARTED TO TAKE CONTROL. HE WAS DOING THINGS YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU'RE FREE OF HIM NOW. YET YOU'RE SENDING US RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE TO FIND HIM. WHY?
HE WAS ATTACKING OUR COMPANY. HE WAS HURTING PEOPLE.
IS THAT IT?

LET'S ASK HIM.
TRAN...
HELLO, SISTER.
RRAAAH!
UFFF!

REMEMBER THIS? IT MAKES SURE YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY. AND THAT SYMBOL ON THE FLOOR? A RETAINING SPELL BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST YOU. ONLY I CAN PASS THROUGH THIS BARRIER.
NOW IT'S TIME WE ALL TALK.
TRAN... I...
GET HER AWAY FROM ME, WITCH.
I WILL. BUT FIRST, THE IDEA OF SELLING WEAPONIZED MAGIC TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER--WAS IT YOURS OR HERS?
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE. I'VE BEEN A PART OF HER FOR AS LONG AS YOU'VE KNOWN HER, ILLYANA. HER VOICE AND MINE ARE TWO PARTS OF THE WHOLE. THE YIN AND THE YANG.
FINDING NEW USES FOR MAGIC WAS ME. SAYING IT WAS TO *"SAVE MUTANTS"* WAS HER. I WAS HAPPY TO LET HER CLAIM CREDIT.
YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM!
SHAN, WHERE'S DANI?

WHAT?
WHERE IS DANI MOONSTAR, SHAN?
I DON'T KNOW.
SHE'S LYING.
SOME OF THE EARLY MAGIC WE DISCOVERED ALLOWED ME TO FINALLY ESCAPE MY SISTER'S BODY.
IT SEEMS WHEN THAT HAPPENED SHE WENT A LITTLE CRAZY. SENT HER BELOVED DANI AFTER ME BEFORE SHE HIRED YOUR LITTLE TEAM.
AND YOU HURT HER!
OH, SISTER. IF I *HAD* DONE SOMETHING TO HER I'D BE GLOATING RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU SEE NOW? SHE GOT DANI KILLED IN HER HUNT FOR ME. SHE THINKS SHE'S BROKEN WITHOUT ME, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN BROKEN. SHE'S OBSESSED. SHE *WANTS* ME BACK.
AND WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?
I WANT HER *DESTROYED.*
I MAY BE HALF OF HER SOUL...BUT SHE IS MY PRISON.
YOU LIE! YOU NEED ME AND I NEED YOU! YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.
SHAN, HE'S ONLY GROWN MORE POWERFUL SINCE HE'S BEEN OUT. HE WAS ALREADY GAINING CONTROL OF YOU BEFORE. EVEN IF IT WAS MORALLY ACCEPTABLE, TAKING HIM BACK WOULD BE VERY--

YOU WON'T GET AWAY. YOU--
--KNOW YOU BELONG WITH ME, BROTHER.
WAIT... ILLY--
RETURN TO ME!
WELL PLAYED...SISTER OF--
GASP
WELCOME HOME.

WHAT DID YOU MAKE ME DO?!
DON'T ACT LIKE THIS, ILLYANA. PART OF ME WAS MISSING. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.
I KILLED HIM! HOW DARE YOU MAKE ME DO THAT!
OH, STOP. YOU'VE BEEN JUDGING ME THIS WHOLE TIME. ACTING LIKE YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME. WE BOTH KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE. WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN. YOUR WHOLE TEAM...
CLK
...YOU'RE MONSTERS.
NO! I AM NOT A--
OOOF!
BOOM

SELFFRIEND ILLYANA NEEDS TO CALM DOWN.
SHAN, WHAT IS THIS?
THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ILLYANA.
TRY ME.
DANI WAS HELPING ME TRACK MY BROTHER BEFORE YOU. BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG AND SHE MERGED WITH *WARLOCK*. HE WAS VERY SICK AND NEEDED HER TO SURVIVE.
YOU'RE SAYING DANI MOONSTAR IS... IN THERE?!
MOONLOCK IS DANI. MOONLOCK IS WARLOCK.

RRAAAAHH!
UMMM, 'YANA? WHAT AM AH LOOKIN' AT RIGHT NOW?
WHEN SHAN'S BROTHER'S SOUL LEFT HER, IT FRACTURED HER PSYCHE. SHE'S BEEN LYING TO US ABOUT EVERYTHING AND HAD WARLOCK HIDDEN AWAY CREATING REPLICAS OF US.
CRAZIEST STUFF IMAGINABLE. GOT IT. YE CAN JUST SAY THAT NEXT TIME.
IS THIS ONE ME?
YEAH.
IS THERE A PERSON IN THERE?
NO. WARLOCK CAN REPRODUCE BY HIMSELF.
ISN'T IT FASCINATING? HE RE-CREATED ALL HIS FRIENDS.
HE MADE THE *ORIGINAL* NEW MUTANTS.

SO IT'S AN ABOMINATION? THAT'S ALL AH NEEDED TA HEAR!
GOODBYE, FAKE MAGMA!
RAHNE, SWEETFRIEND. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. WE WANT TO HELP YOU.
DANI? THAT REALLY YOU?
OF COURSE IT'S ME, SWEETFRIEND.
AHHCK!
NO! GET OFF OF HER!
GRR!!!
RAHNE?! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TELL ME WHAT--
HELP ME...

TIME TO MERGE, SELF.
AGGHH!
DON'T EVER TOUCH ME, MONSTER.
CRASSH
OOOOF!
WHAT THE HELL, ILLYANA?!
IF THIS IS MORE OF YOUR WEIRD--
RUN.

WHAT THE @&$# ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--
I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS.
MAGIK, PUT THE SWORD DOWN OR WE'LL TAKE IT FROM YOU.
I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU TRY.
YOU... MISSED?
NOT QUITE.
COME ON... PLEASE...
RAAAAH!
HEY, 'YANA! AM I STANDING ON SUNSPOT?
NO! HIT HIM!

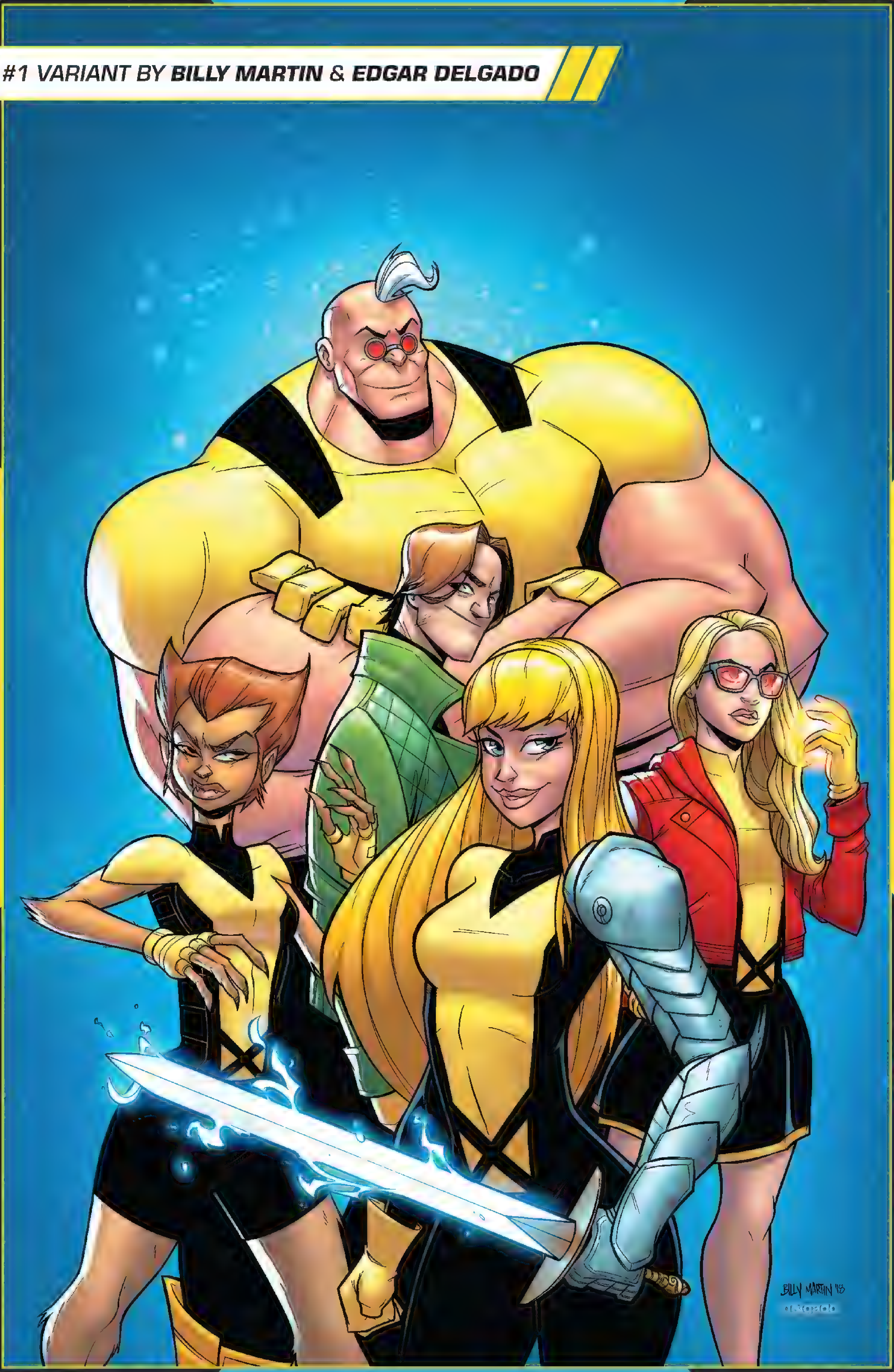
OKAY.
GUIDO, DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU.
THINGS SURE GOT WEIRD WHILE I WAS GONE, *HUH?* HOW LONG *WAS* THAT?
THIRTY-SIX HOURS.
OH... FELT LIKE... YEARS.
GUIDO! NO NO NO!
FRIEND IS HAVING A HEART ATTACK. I CAN HELP HIM.
STAY BACK!

HE'S DYING, MAGIK. I CAN HELP HIM.
DO IT. BUT IF YOU HURT HIM--
I CANNOT HURT WHAT IS NOT LIVING. QUIET, PLEASE.
IT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
GASP
I'M SO SORRY, GUIDO. BUT DON'T DO THAT AGAIN. YOU SCARED ME.

DON'T BE SCARED, LEADERFRIEND.
MMFF!!!
ACK! AHHHCK!
GOOD JOB, TEAM. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.
GENERAL CALLAHAN? THIS IS *TRAN COY MANH* FROM THE HATCHI CORPORATION. IF YOU'RE STILL LOOKING FOR TEST SUBJECTS, I THINK I HAVE SOME YOU'LL LOVE.
MMMMHHH!
QUIET, ENEMYSELF.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, KARMA.
WE'RE *ALL* MONSTERS NOW.
THE END?

#1 VARIANT BY **BILLY MARTIN** & **EDGAR DELGADO**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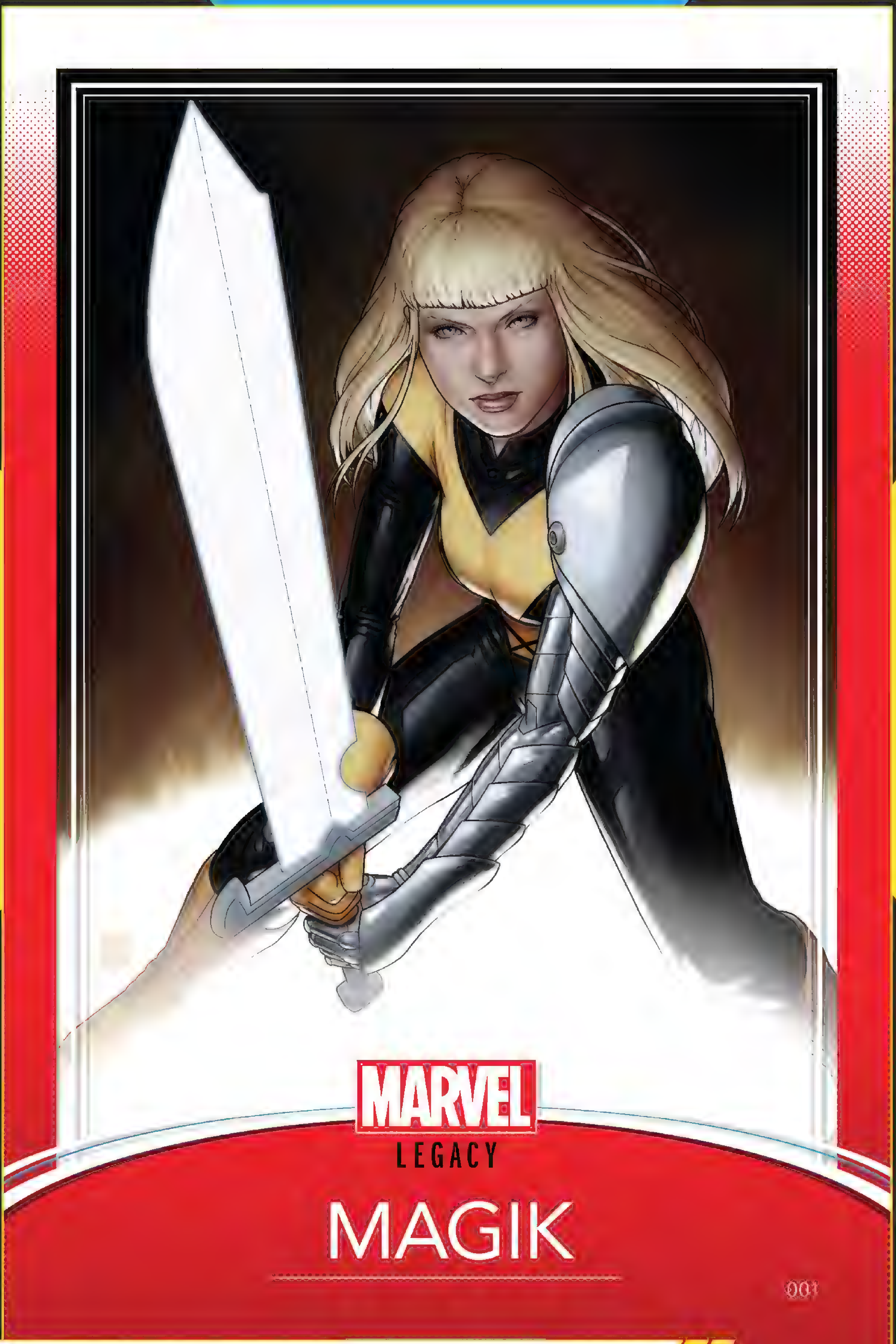
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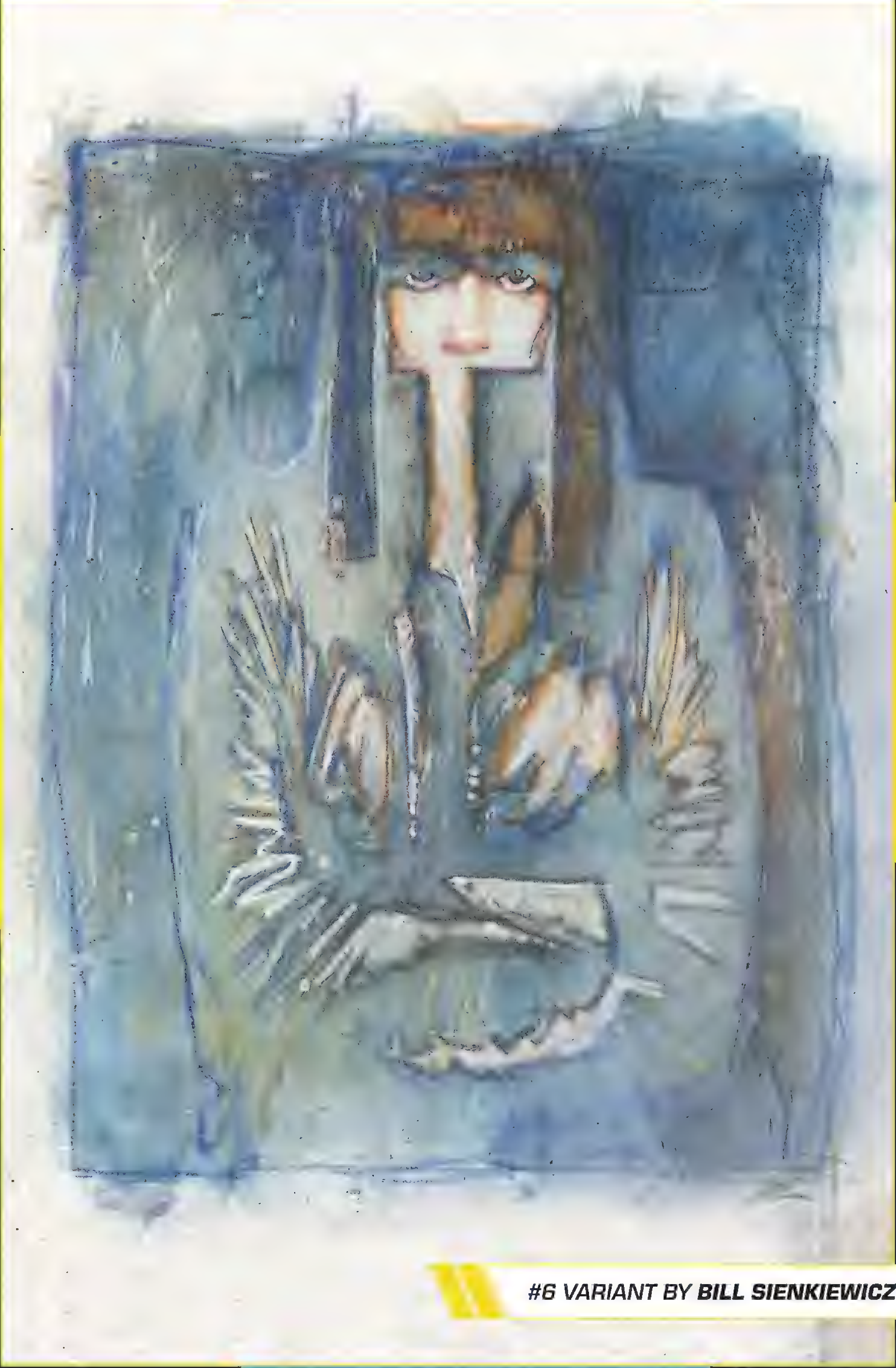
#1 TRADING CARD VARIANT BY **JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER**



#6 VARIANT BY **BILL SIENKIEWICZ**

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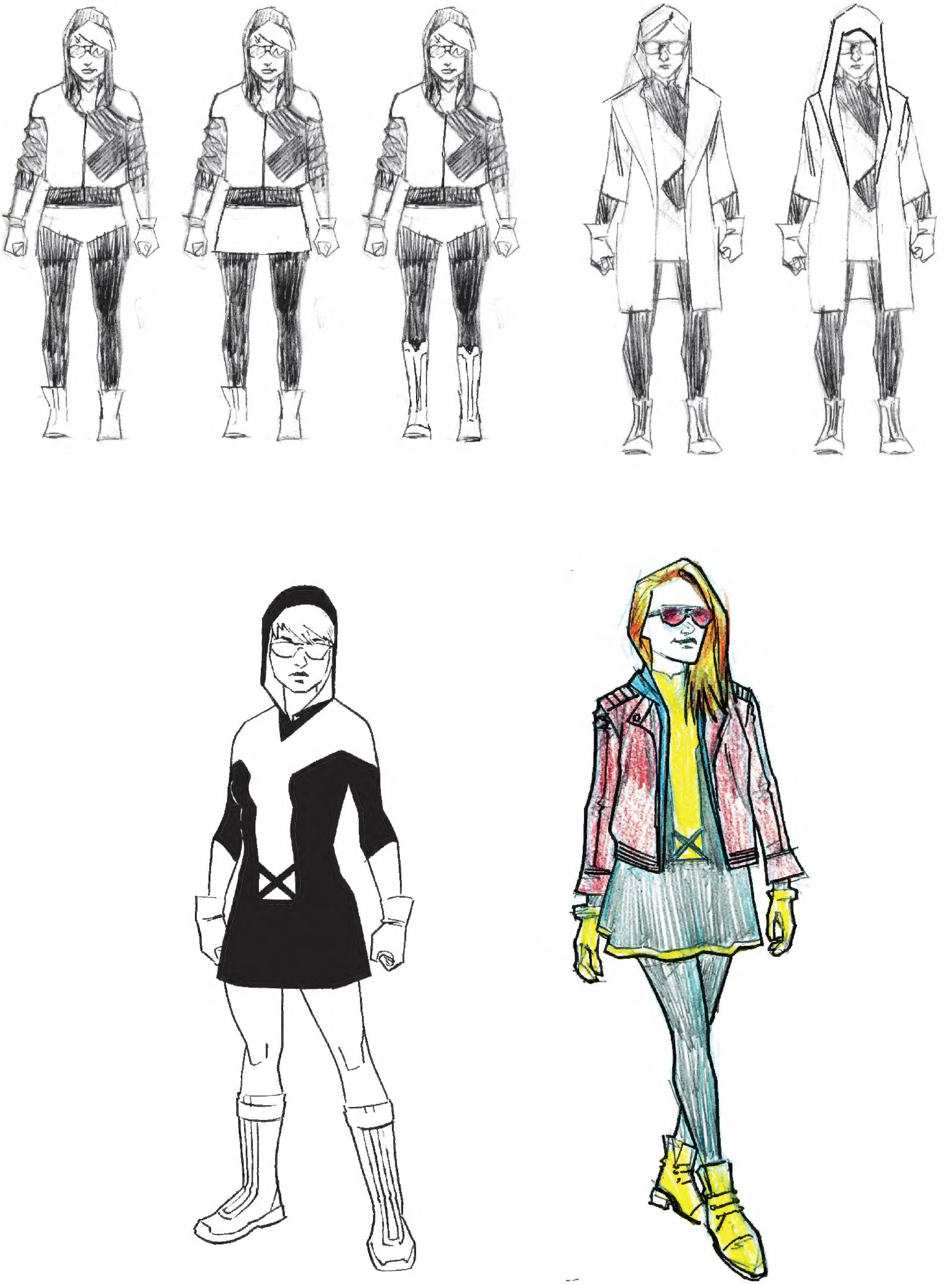
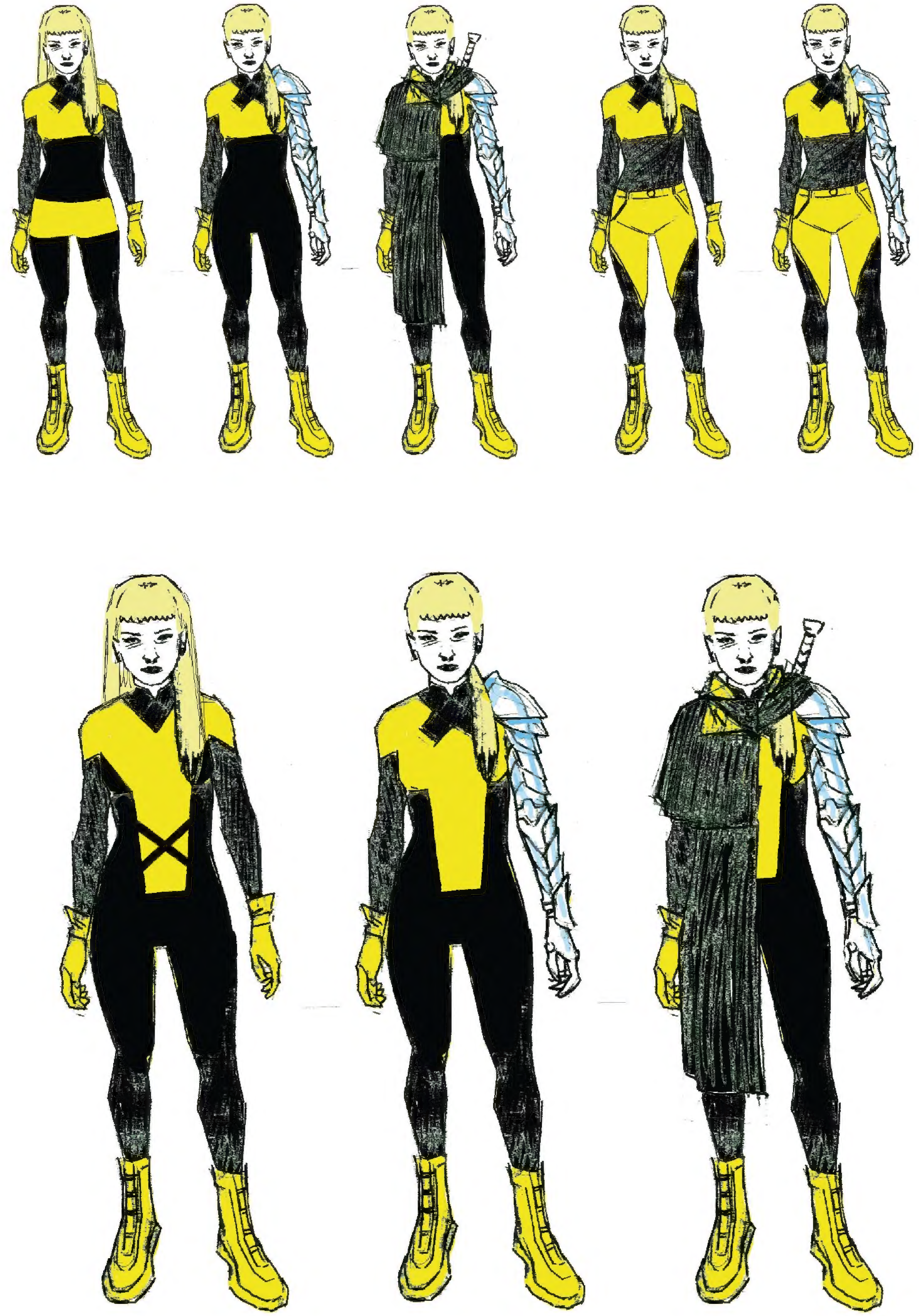
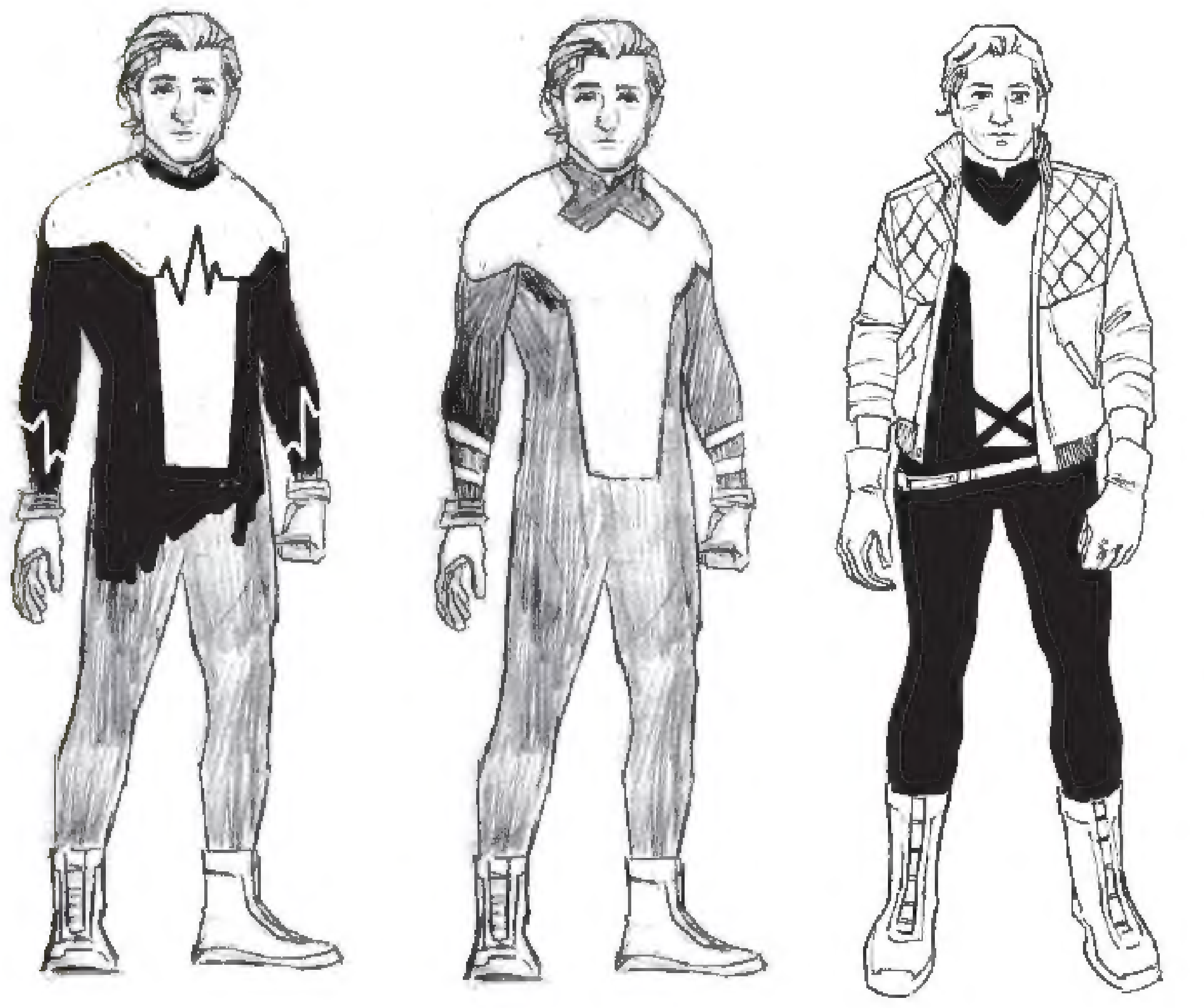


BOOM-BOOM



MAGIK



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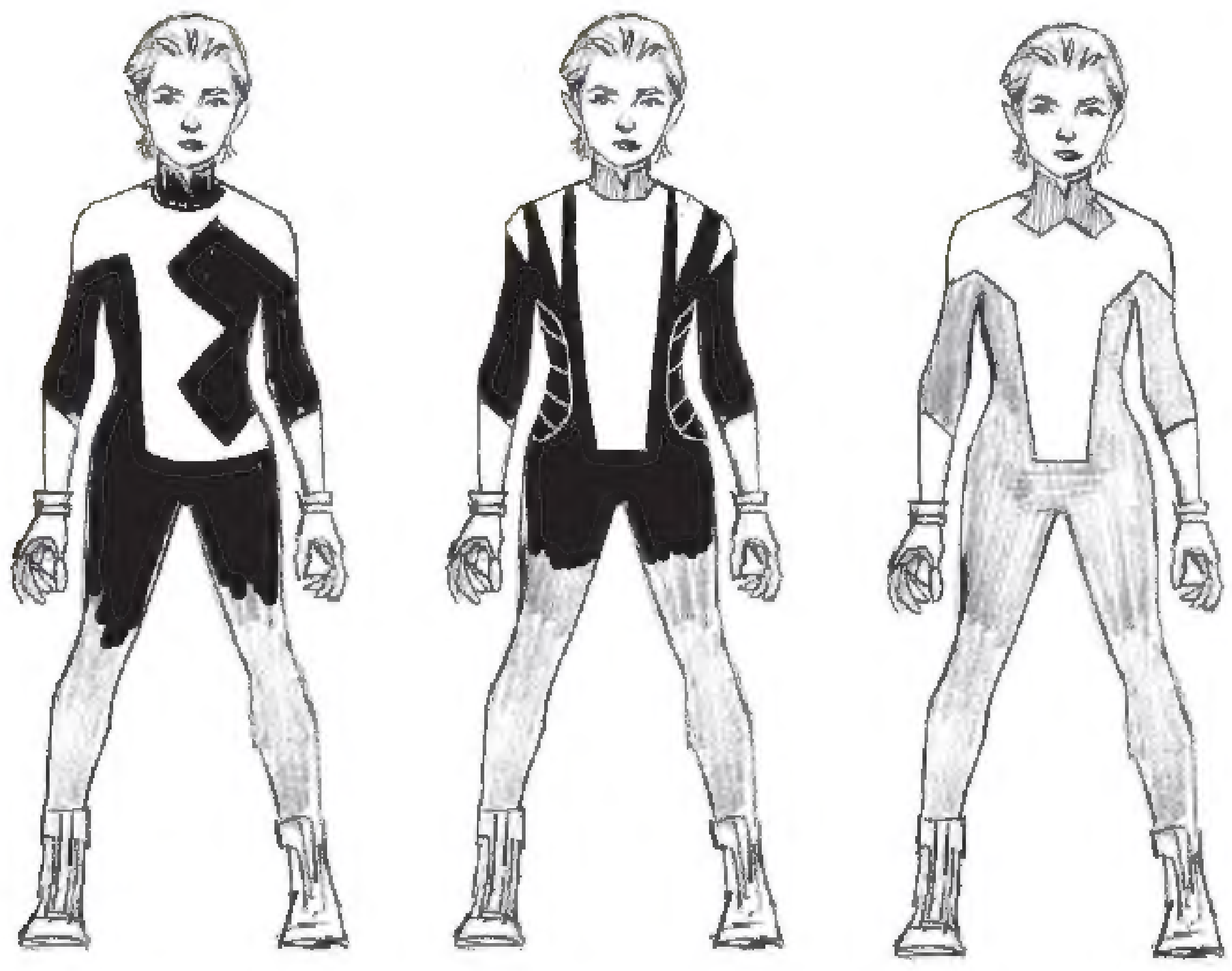
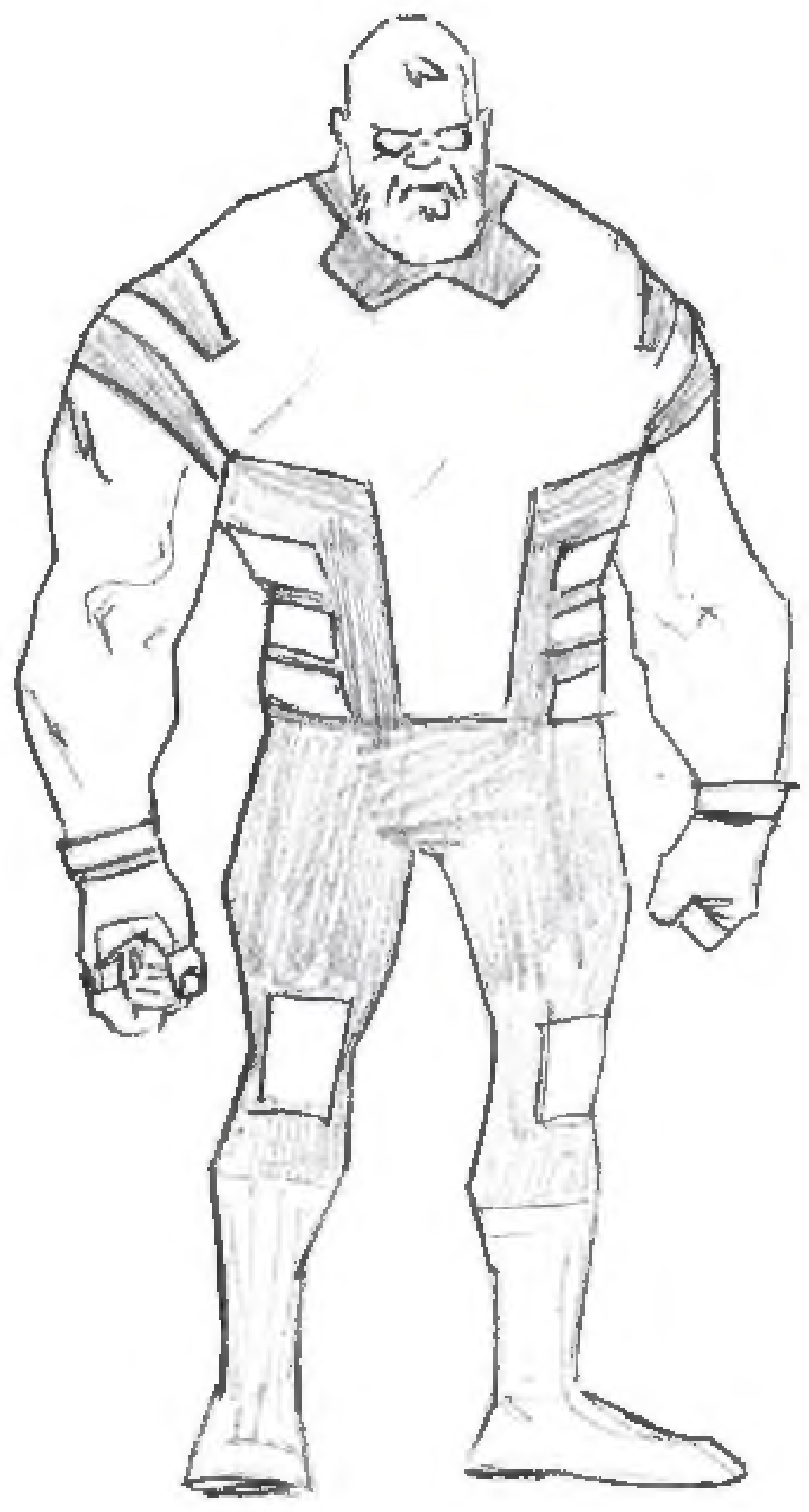
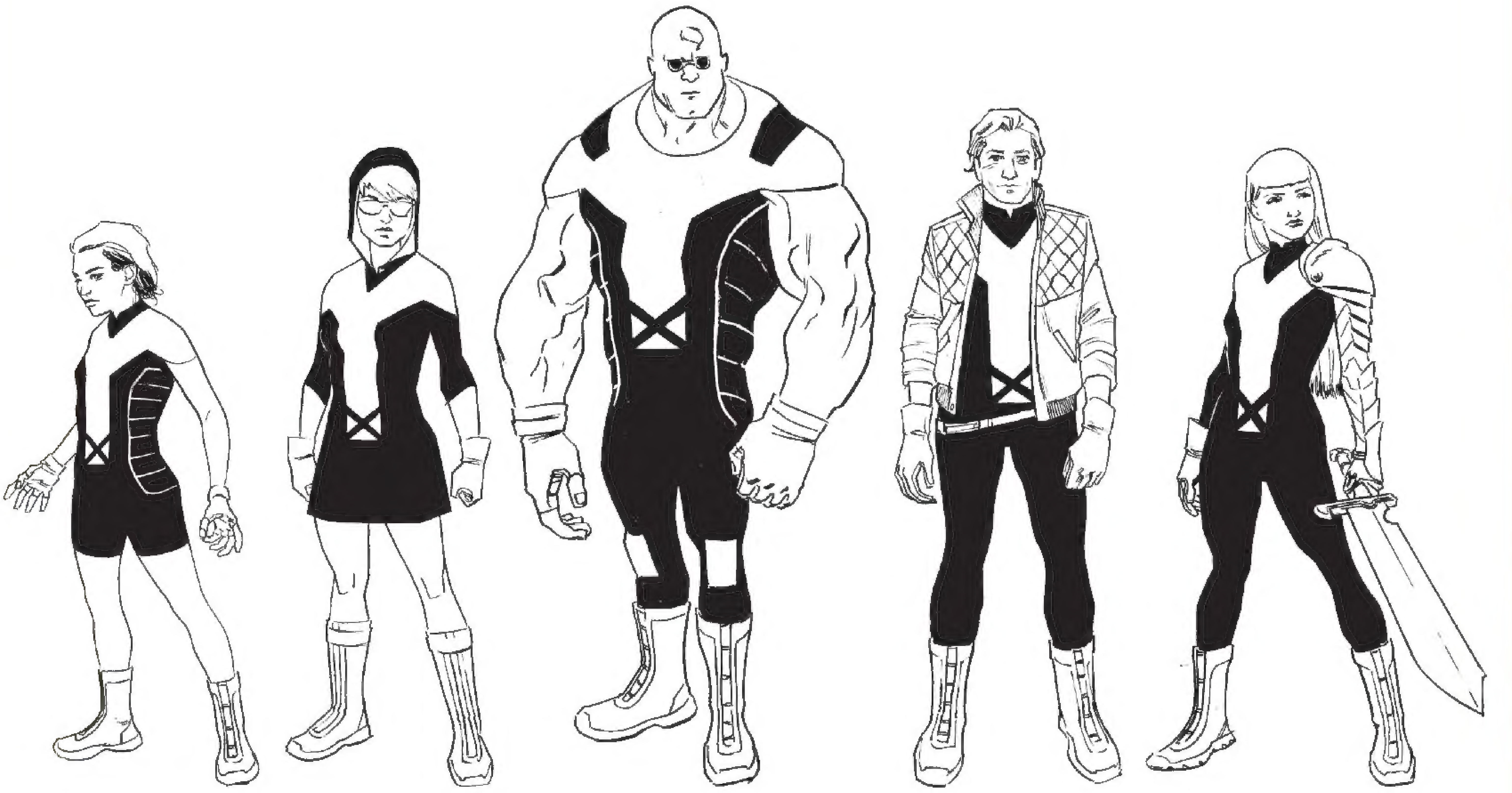


WOLFSBANE



STRONG GUY



TEAM ROSTER

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COLLECTING *NEW MUTANTS: DEAD SOULS #1-6* — BY MATTHEW ROSENBERG, ADAM GORHAM, MICHAEL GARLAND AND ANDREW CROSSLEY.

MARVEL

T+